MORN-
ING...
GHH-
NH..
M' MORN-
ING...?
AH...
HEY!
OH, MY HEAD
THROB
THROB
THROB

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT ONE
A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

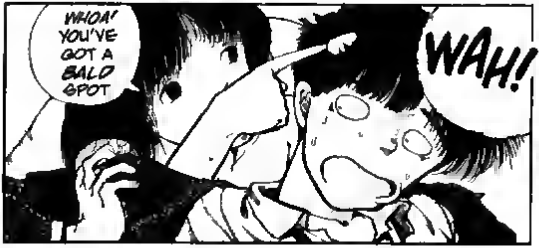
Story & Art by NAOKI YAMAMOTO
English Adaptation by MATT THORN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

UM, YOUR LEG?
OH, UH, SORRY
H-
HOLD ON A SEC...
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
UM... UH...
ABOUT LAST NIGHT...

THE FUNERAL AND, UH...
DRINK UP, SUE-KICHI!
NO, REALLY, I SHOULDN'T
NINETY YEARS IS A LONG LIFE
DAMN STRAIGHT

WHERE'S YOUR DAD? HE DEAD, TOO?
HE HAD TO WORK, SO I'M STANDING IN FOR HIM
YOU SURE HAVE GROWN, SUE-KICHI.
THE FAMILY HASN'T ALL GATHERED LIKE THIS IN YEARS.
DAMN STRAIGHT
DAMN STRAIGHT

COULD I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
WHO ME?
UH... UH


WHOA! YOU'VE GOT A BALD SPOT
WAH!

REMEMBER NOW?
AHH, AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO REMEMBER SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT!

YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHAT WE DID?
H-HOLD ON A SEC... UM...

YOU ANIMAL.
BAM
B-A-A-A-R-R-R-F-F!!
BARF!
G-SORRY 'BOUT THAT GUESS I HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT.
FLOOSH
B-BUT WH-WHADDYA MEAN BY .."ANIMAL"?

YOO-HOO!
G'MOR-NING
GOOD MORN-ING
GOOD MORN-ING.
YO.
AH
EE
AH
OH
OOH
AH

YOU LOOK LIKE HELL, SUEKICHI
I HAD A ROUGH MORNING.
SUEKICHI, YOU LITTLE DEVIL
I HEAR YOU BROUGHT A GIRL UP TO YOUR ROOM.
H-HOW..
OUR TROUPE LEADER SAID A GIRL ANSWERED YOUR PHONE.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET STARTED
LET'S BEGIN WITH SCENE TWO
FADE OUT SOUND EFFECTS
YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

NO, NO NOT LIKE THAT.
LIKE THIS, SEE?
THINKING ABOUT THAT GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, YOU ANIMAL!
WHERE'D YOU PICK HER UP?
NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!!
POCK!
I-I WAS AT MY GREAT GRANDPA'S FUNERAL LAST NIGHT AND PEOPLE KEPT FILLING MY GLASS
YOU PICKED UP A GIRL AT A FUNERAL?
THERE'S GOTTA BE A RULE AGAINST THAT!!
HOW MANY MINUTES WAS THAT?
UM...
BOK!
GET WITH IT, SUEKICHI!!!

WE'RE THAT MUCH IN THE RED STILL?
WE STILL OWE THE PRINTER FOR THE LAST SHOW.
OUCH
WELL, I GAVE MY ALL
HMM
TO WHO IS?

AND I WAS HOPING TO GET NICER COSTUMES FOR THIS SHOW...
AND WE STILL HAVEN'T GOT OUR OWN REHEARSAL STUDIO..
UM.

IF ONLY WE HAD A SPON-SOR.
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY I WANT MONEY!
UM...

YOU HAVE AN IDEA?
N-NO! I...
YOU CALLED ME YESTER-DAY..?

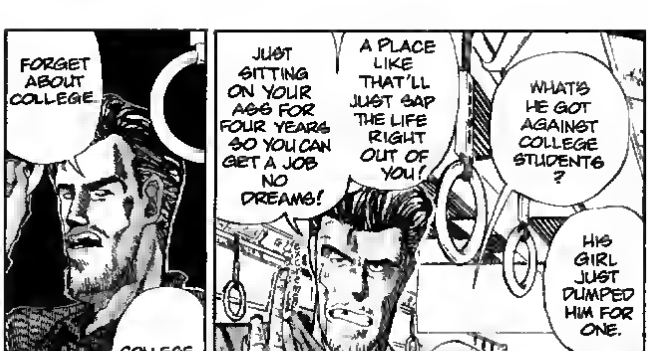
SOME GIRL ANSWER ED SHE SAID YOU WERE TRASHED
SH-SHE.. I..

I HEAR YOU PICK-ED UP A YOUNG WIDOW AT A FUNERAL
WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT !?

I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN SKIPPING CLASSES.
YEAH.
YOU'RE STILL DOING THE COLLEGE THING?
I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN ASKING YOU TO DO SO MUCH WORK FOR THE TROUPE.
THAT'S OKAY.
I'M GOING TO QUIT GOING TO SCHOOL ANYWAY
WHY?

I HAD A HARD TIME GETTING IN, BUT NOW THAT I'M THERE... IT'S SO BORING
THE OLD "DROP OUT, RUN AWAY"
AND JOIN THE THEATRE" ROUTINE, EH?

'SPECIALLY AFTER GOING TO THAT FUNERAL AND SEEING THE FACE OF A DEAD MAN...
...I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE SOONER OR LATER.
I MEAN, IF I'M GOING TO DIE SOMEDAY, I'D LIKE TO ENJOY LIFE UNTIL THEN, YOU KNOW?
THE TROUPE'S A LOT OF WORK, BUT I LIKE IT.
I THINK I SHOULD JUST QUIT SCHOOL AND FOCUS ON THE THEATER.
D-DAD-D-DAD-DAD!
YOU WANT TO MOVE FROM THE BACK OF THE STAGE TO THE FRONT?
HUH? NO, I--
YEAH! THAT MONOLOGUE WAS GREAT!


FORGET ABOUT COLLEGE.
COLLEGE IS MEANINGLESS IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
JUST SITTING ON YOUR ASS FOR FOUR YEARS SO YOU CAN GET A JOB NO DREAMS!
A PLACE LIKE THAT'LL JUST SAP THE LIFE RIGHT OUT OF YOU!
WHAT'S HE GOT AGAINST COLLEGE STUDENTS?
HIS GIRL JUST DUMPED HIM FOR ONE.

SITTING IN CLASSES WONDERING WHY YOU'RE WASTING YOUR LIFE IS WHAT GAVE YOU THAT BALD SPOT!
HEY!

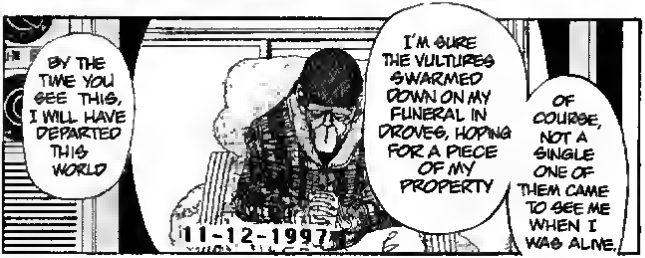
GIMME MY HAT BACK!
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE AN ACTOR!?

SIGH!
HUH?
AH, YOU'RE BACK.
WELCOME HOME!
YAH! THE GIRL FROM--
I..
...THIS MORNING!

I'VE COME TO DISCUSS THE WILL OF MR TERAYAMA, AS PER OUR DISCUSSION OF YESTERDAY
Tori Tachimi
Attorney at Law
BEG PAR-DON?
WELL, YOU SEE...
INHERIT-ANCE?
FROM MY GREAT-GRANDPA?
NO
THAT'S CORRECT
YOU DON'T REMEM-BER?
NO.
NOT AT ALL?
NOT AT ALL
WHADDAYA MEAN, "INHERITANCE"?
PROPERTY OR AN ESTATE WHICH PASSES BY LAW TO THE HEIR ON THE DECEASE OF THE POSSESSOR (OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, 2ND EDITION)
I KNOW WHAT THE WORD MEANS
I TRUST THIS IS VHS?
HUH?
YOUR VCR.

WHAT'S ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME? I'M JUST ONE GREAT-GRAND-SON IN A BIG FAMILY.
THIS WAS RECORDED A WEEK BEFORE MR TERAYAMA PASSED AWAY.

"THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF DAIKICHI TERAYAMA"?
寺山大吉の遺言
11-12-1997
MR TERAYAMA WAS QUITE THE MULTI-MEDIA MANIAC IN HIS WANING YEARS

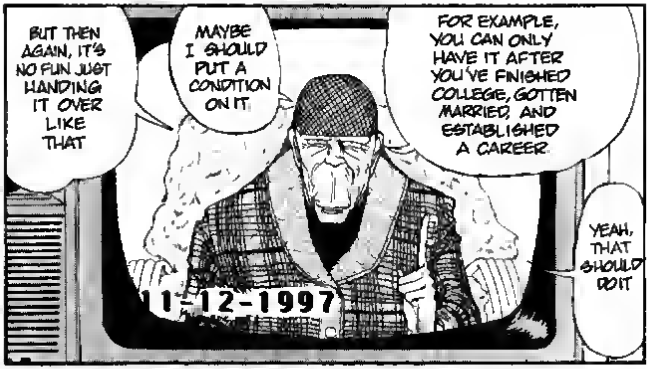

BY THE TIME YOU SEE THIS, I WILL HAVE DEPARTED THIS WORLD
I'M SURE THE VULTURES SWARMED DOWN ON MY FUNERAL IN DROVES, HOPING FOR A PIECE OF MY PROPERTY
OF COURSE, NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM CAME TO SEE ME WHEN I WAS ALIVE.
11-12-1997

I WAS ALONE UNTIL THE VERY END
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT NOW.
OF ALL MY RELATIVES, YOU, SUEKICHI, WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO ALWAYS CAME OVER TO PLAY, BRINGING ME A FEW RARE MOMENTS OF JOY.
11-12-1997

HEY, THAT'S ME!
EVEN NOW, I CAN CLOSE MY EYES AND REMEMBER THE HILLS AND STREAMS WHERE WE GAMBOLED.
CHECK OUT THE GROOVY EFFECTS.
BUT I ONLY WENT TO PLAY AT GREAT-GRANDPA'S PLACE WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
HE MUST HAVE BEEN SENILE
YOU KNOW, ONLY REMEMBERING THE GOOD PARTS.
WOULD YOU MIND GIVING US A LITTLE PRIVACY?
BUT NOW...
...THE END IS NEAR.
AND SO, ON THE OCCASION OF MY JOURNEY TO THE NETHERWORLD, I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE GIFT.
THIS IS FOR YOU, SUEKICHI.
11-12-1997

THE PRESENT MR TERAYAMA REFERS TO...
..IS THIS STAMP COLLECTION, WHICH MR TERAYAMA SECRETLY PUT TOGETHER OVER MANY YEARS WITH PROFITS FROM HIS REAL ESTATE BUSINESS
IT IS CURRENTLY VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY 450 MILLION YEN*..
...AS I IN-FORM-ED YOU YES-TER-DAY.
*-ROUGHLY 4.5 MILLION DOLLARS.
YOU STILL DON'T RE-MEMBER?
NOT A WORD
450 MILLION YEN WORTH OF STAMPS?
THIS SPECIMEN ALONE IS WORTH 120 MILLION YEN.
HOLY SHIT!
DON'T TOUCH IT!!
SNEEZ!!
THEY'RE EXTREMELY FRAGILE
WOULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE US ALONE?

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
I'M LOOKING FOR THE CAMERA
THIS ISN'T CANDID CAMERA
YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM.
400 MILLION'S KIND OF MIND-BOGGLING!
WOULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE US ALONE?
IF ONLY WE HAD A SPONSOR
MONEY MONEY MONEY I WANT MONEY
AH!
S-SO I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT WITH THAT MONEY?
WE WERE JUST GETTING TO THAT.
UN-PAUSE


BUT THEN AGAIN, IT'S NO FUN JUST HANDING IT OVER LIKE THAT
MAYBE I SHOULD PUT A CONDITION ON IT
FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN ONLY HAVE IT AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED COLLEGE, GOTTEN MARRIED, AND ESTABLISHED A CAREER
YEAH, THAT SHOULD DO IT
11-12-1997

.....
.....
GREAT-GRANDPA ALWAYS DID LIKE TO THROW IN LITTLE ZINGERS LIKE THAT
THERE YOU HAVE IT.
BY THE WAY, HE INSTRUCT ED ME TO PASS THE VIDEO HERE
STOP!

WHA-A-A-T-T!?

YOU MEAN, HE CAN'T GET THE 400 MILLION TILL THEN!?
UNTIL THAT TIME, AS THE EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE, I WILL KEEP THE COLLECTION IN TRUST.
UH-HUH. SO...HOW DO WE KNOW YOU WON'T RUN OFF WITH IT?
I OWE THE LATE MR TERAYAMA A DEBT OF GRATITUDE I CAN NEVER REPAY
SO YOU SAY!
WOULD YOU ASK YOUR SISTER TO MIND HER OWN BUSINESS?
HUH?
"SISTER"?
DON'T LET HIM TRICK YOU, SUEKICHI!
I THOUGHT SHE CAME WITH YOU.
NEVER MIND THAT! THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THIS GUY!
YOU MEAN SHE'S NOT REALLY YOUR "SISTER WHO CAME TO FORM YOU IN TOKYO"?
BUT IF..
YOU DON'T KNOW HER, THEN..

TO BE CONTINUED..!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT TWO
THE LUCKIEST MAN IN TOKYO

Story & Art by NAOKI YAMAMOTO
English Adaptation by MATT THORN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

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THE STORY THUS FAR.

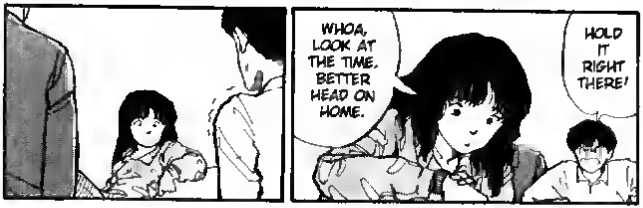
If college student Susumu Terayama graduates, he'll collect his $4.5 million inheritance from his great-grandfather. But the morning after great-grandpapa's funeral, he wakes up with a terrible hangover ...and a beautiful, scantily clad young woman in his bed! Is she interested in his mind or his body, or is she just a gold digger?

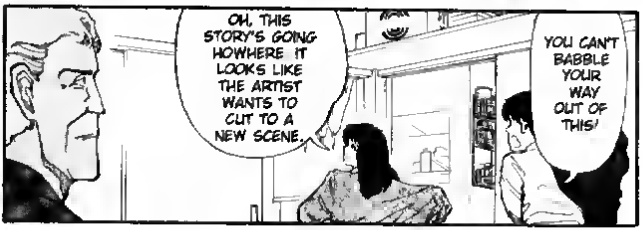
UM, HI. MY NAME'S AYA HIBINO.
THE "HIBI" IN "HIBINO" IS WRITTEN LIKE THE WORD FOR "DAYS", AND THE "NO" IS THE CHARACTER FOR "FIELD."

TO WRITE "AYA," YOU WRITE "THREAD" ON THE LEFT--
...AND THE RIGHT PART IS LIKE THIS.

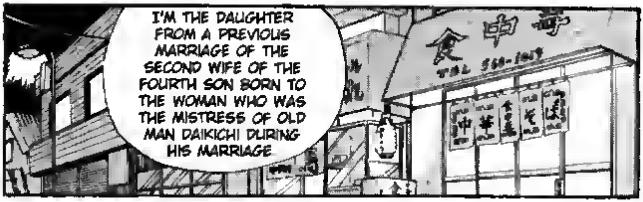
I'M A PISCES, MY BLOOD TYPE IS B, AND I'LL BE TWENTY IN MARCH.
I LIKE SWEET THINGS . OH, AND SPICY THINGS, TOO.

WHO ASKED YOU ABOUT YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES!?
THE QUESTION IS NOT SO MUCH WHO YOU ARE, BUT RATHER WHY YOU ARE HERE.
WELL, YOU ASKED WHO I AM, SO I'M INTRODUCING MYSELF.


WHOA, LOOK AT THE TIME. BETTER HEAD ON HOME.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!


OH, THIS STORY'S GOING NOWHERE. IT LOOKS LIKE THE ARTIST WANTS TO CUT TO A NEW SCENE.
YOU CAN'T BABBLE YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS!

I CAN'T STAND MYSTERIES. MYSTERIES DRIVE ME CRAZY.
WOULD YOU WAIT!?
THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN A CLINGY GUY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INVITED YOURSELF IN!
COULD IT BE THAT YOU STILL WANT MY BODY?
Y-YOUR BODY!?
MISS
YOU WERE AT THE FUNERAL, WEREN'T YOU?
FEED ME, AND I'LL TALK.


I'M THE DAUGHTER FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE OF THE SECOND WIFE OF THE FOURTH SON BORN TO THE WOMAN WHO WAS THE MISTRESS OF OLD MAN DAIKICHI DURING HIS MARRIAGE

RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN?
UM, THE DAUGHTER... OF THE MISTRESS... OF THE THIRD WIFE...
BASICALLY, I WAS ONE OF HUNDREDS OF RELATIVES WHO SHOWED UP AT THE FUNERAL HOPING TO SCORE SOME CASH.
ACTUALLY, I HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO, SO I TAGGED ALONG WITH MY FOLKS.

AND YOU OVERHEARD MY CONVERSATION WITH SUEKICHI AT THE FUNERAL, RIGHT?
THAT WAS ONE MEAN BOWL OF RAMEN

I THOUGHT YOU HAD TO BE GETTING ON HOME.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO HOME.
HAVE SOME BEER FIRST.

HUH?
THAT'S ALL I CAN DISCLOSE FOR JUST ONE BOWL.

GEE, I COULD REALLY GO FOR A BEER.
ONE BEER, PLEASE.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS EAVES-DROPPING.
I JUST STEPPED OUTSIDE FOR SOME FRESH AIR, AND THERE YOU WERE.
YOU SEE...
HUH-H...?
HEAD-ING HOME, SUE-KICHI?
'M O-H-H-KAY.
THE STATION'S THE OTHER WAY!
'M O-H-H-KAY.
BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THAT..
WHICH WAY DO YOU LIVE?
'ISS WAY!
B-BUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT!?
GEE, I COULD REALLY GO FOR ANOTHER BEER.
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.

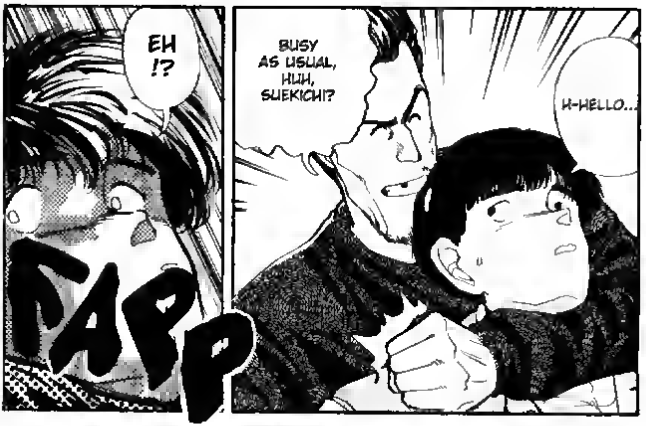
IN SHORT, YOU APPROACHED SUEKICHI BECAUSE YOU WERE AFTER HIS INHERITANCE.
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE. ALL I DID WAS TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR APARTMENT BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT BY YOURSELF.
HOW CAN YOU SAY I WAS JUST AFTER YOUR MONEY?
AH-H-H !!
AND THE REASON YOU WERE NAKED WAS...?
COULD THERE BE ANY OTHER REASON?
PRE-CISE-LY.
HEY!
SO DON'T BELIEVE ME SEE IF I CARE.
THANKS FOR THE RAMEN AND THE BEER.

SHE'S GONE.
DAMN. JUST WHEN SHE WAS GETTING TO THE INTERESTING PART!
MAYBE SHE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
DON'T BE SILLY.
SHE PROBABLY LOST INTEREST WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE GETTING THE MONEY FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
WELL, I SHALL DEAL WITH THIS GIRL IN SOME FASHION OR ANOTHER.
BUT TAKE HEED, SUEKICHI EVEN THE SLIGHTEST "LEAK" CAN LEAD TO THIS.
IT'S NOT ONLY GIRLS LIKE HER THAT YOU HAVE TO BE WARY OF. THE WORLD IS FULL OF PARASITES WHO WILL COME RUNNING AT THE FIRST SNIFF OF MONEY. AND THEY WON'T BE EASY TO SHAKE OFF

YOU MUSN'T MENTION THIS TO ANYONE.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
UM..
I FELT LIKE I'D SUDDENLY BECOME THE PROTAGONIST IN SOME KIND OF STORY.

WHEN I GOT BACK TO MY ROOM, ONLY THE LAWYER'S CARD PROVED THAT IT HADN'T ALL BEEN A DREAM.
YO
WHOA! LOOK WHO'S HERE
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD
SEVERAL BUSY DAYS PASSED. AND THEN...
HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!
LATE...!

HI, SUEKICHI!
UH, HI, MS. SHIMOMURA.
REHEARSAL IS OVER ALREADY
ARE THE TICKETS SELLING?


EH!?
FAPP
BUSY AS USUAL, HUH, SUEKICHI?
H-HELLO...

SUEKICHI!
WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOU GOING TO CLASSES?
F-FINAL EXAMS ARE C-COMING UP.
SKRK

IF I'M GOING TO DIE SOMEDAY, I'D LIKE TO ENJOY LIFE UNTIL THEN!
YOU'RE BREAKIN' MY HEART, SUEKICHI!
WHERE'S THE SUEKICHI WHO SPOKE THOSE MOVING AND MEMORABLE LINES?
UH .. UM..
THE TROUPE'S A LOT OF WORK, BUT I LIKE IT.
I THINK I SHOULD JUST QUIT SCHOOL!
TH-THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, YOU KNOW!
AND I WANT MY INHERITANCE
WHADDYA MEAN?
I-I CAN'T SAY RIGHT NOW.
A WOMAN?
AH-HAH! IT IS A WOMAN, ISN'T IT?
THE ONE WHO ANSWERED YOUR PHONE!
W-WOULD YOU CUT IT OUT!?
SOME-THING WRONG?

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT OVER A DRINK OR TWO?
YOUR TREAT.

CAN'T WE GO SOMEPLACE WHERE THERE ARE GIRLS?
THIS IS ALL I CAN AFFORD.

IF THERE'S ONE THING I HATE, IT'S COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE THEATER.
THEY LIVE OFF THEIR PARENTS' MONEY, BUT THEY PHILOSOPHIZE LIKE THEY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT LIFE.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE THEATER.
WHO PAID FOR THAT DRINK, IKEZU?

I'M TELLING YOU THIS 'CAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU TO END UP LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW?
SURE, SURE.

OF COURSE, IF A WOMAN'S INVOLVED, THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER.
WHEN DID I SAY ANY-THING ABOUT A WOMAN?

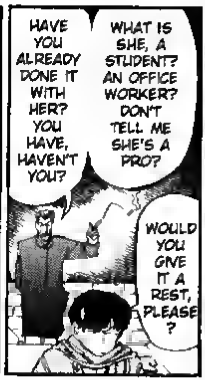
BUT I WAS SURE YOU WERE AFTER SHIMOMURA.
NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH JOINING A TROUPE TO IMPRESS A WOMAN.
AH! YOU'RE BLUSHING!
IT'S THE LIQUOR!
I'VE KNOWN SHIMOMURA SINCE WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB TOGETHER.
SO TRUST ME WHEN I SAY DON'T BOTHER WITH HER.
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS..
. SHE'S STILL A VIRGIN.
AT THE AGE OF 27!!
EH?
COME ON, SUEKICHI.

I'M BROKE...
WHY DON'T YOU FIND SOME WOMAN TO MAKE YOU DINNER?
BESIDES, I'M STARVING
LET'S HAVE A FEW MORE DRINKS AT YOUR PLACE AND SHOOT THE SHIT.

NOTHING'S THE MATTER. IT'S JUST THAT I'M AT A STAGE IN MY LIFE WHEN I PREFER TO BE ALONE
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

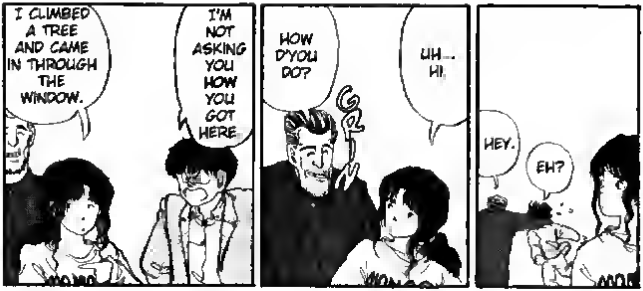
I WANNA SEE THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO'D GO AFTER YOU!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU, MR. IKEZU. I DON'T KEEP WOMEN WAITING AT--

NO, SOMETHING'S THE MATTER...
I'VE GOT IT-- THERE'S A WOMAN WAITING AT YOUR PLACE!
YOU HAVE A ONE-TRACK MIND.


HAVE YOU ALREADY DONE IT WITH HER? YOU HAVE, HAVEN'T YOU?
WHAT IS SHE, A STUDENT? AN OFFICE WORKER? DON'T TELL ME SHE'S A PRO?
WOULD YOU GIVE IT A REST, PLEASE?

ZZZZZ...
MONGO
サンストア
AH!

JUST AS I THOUGHT.
HM? OH, GOOD MORNING.
WHADDYA MEAN "GOOD MORNING" !?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?


I CLIMBED A TREE AND CAME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU HOW YOU GOT HERE.
HOW D'YOU DO?
UH... HI.
HEY.
EH?

YOU LITTLE...
UNDERNEATH THAT INNOCENT EXTERIOR LURKS A PUBESCENT PERVERT.
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, I--
NEVER MIND THE EXCUSES. I'M GOING TO MY GIRL'S PLACE

WHO WAS THAT?
BAM!!
"WHO WAS THAT"!? WHO ARE YOU?
SNEAKING INTO SOME-ONE'S HOME...!

I JUST THOUGHT A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU WOULD BE LONELY ON A COLD WINTER NIGHT LIKE THIS, SO I CAME TO MAKE YOU DINNER!
MONGO
WHY ARE YOU SO SUSPICIOUS?
YES, WHY INDEED ?

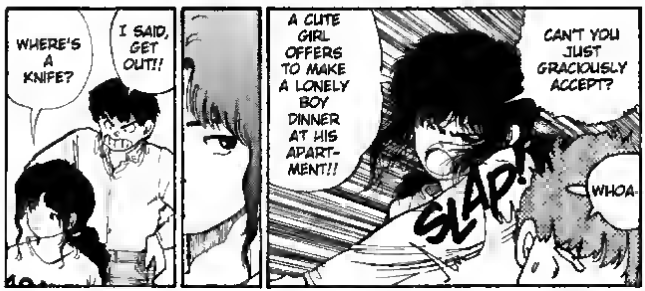
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOUNG MAN"? WE'RE THE SAME AGE!
BESIDES, TODAY'S A HOLIDAY. NO POINT IN JUST SITTING AROUND THE HOUSE.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. TODAY IS "COMING-OF-AGE-DAY."
YOU'VE GOT A JOB?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY, BUT SEEING THAT EVERY-ONE ELSE IS TAKING THE DAY OFF, WELL, I, UM...
SHIS
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD SITTING OUT THERE, MR. IKEZU.
YOU'VE GOT A POINT.

ACT THREE

THE MIND SAYS NO, BUT THE LOINS SAY GO

GET OUT.

WOW, AN APRON!
MIND IF I BORROW IT?
MONGO
GET OUT!


WHERE'S A KNIFE?
I SAID, GET OUT!!
A CUTE GIRL OFFERS TO MAKE A LONELY BOY DINNER AT HIS APART-MENT!!
CAN'T YOU JUST GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT?
SLAP!
WHOA-

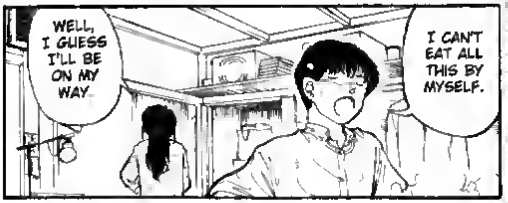
I JUST DON'T FEEL VERY GRACIOUS ABOUT BEING BUTTERED UP BY A STRANGE WOMAN WHO'S AFTER MY MONEY.
NOW I'VE GOT WORK TO DO, SO GET OUT.

I CAN TAKE A HINT!
TRUE, NOBODY FORCED ME TO WAIT FIVE HOURS HERE STARVING TO DEATH..
...BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE SO MEAN THAT YOU'D THROW MY GOOD INTENTIONS IN MY FACE!
BAM!
YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN HERE ALL EVENING?
SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU! GOOD-BYE!

SEE?
KNOCK
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING. NOW GET LOST.
POKE!
YOU FELT LONELY, DIDN'T YOU? THE MINUTE I LEFT YOU FELT LONELY, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WERE TO MENTION IT TO THAT PACK OF GRAVE ROBBERS?
I'M THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO KNOWS ABOUT YOUR HIDDEN INHERITANCE
A-ARE YOU BLACK-MAILING ME?
IS IT REALLY WISE TO BE SO CRUEL TO ME?
HUH?
MONGO

YOU KNOW, THIS IS TOO HEAVY TO CARRY HOME. I'LL JUST COOK IT UP BEFORE I LEAVE.
BESIDES, I'M SURE THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS YOU WANT TO ASK ME, RIGHT?
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE UP TO.
YOU'RE DOING ALL THIS JUST TO GET MY INHERIT-ANCE.
OH, IT'S TRAGIC HOW MONEY CAN IMPOVERISH A PERSON'S HEART.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE SWEET SUEKICHI I ONCE KNEW?
WE JUST MET
DOES MONEY MEAN THAT MUCH TO YOU?
YOU BET IT DOES.
AND YOUR TRYING TO SNATCH IT AWAY MAKES ME WANT TO HANG ONTO IT ALL THE MORE.
OOPS!
HM?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO THAT FOOD...
...BUT IT'S NOT COOKING.
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
SQUISH
SIZZLE!!
HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD.
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU MAKING?
SWEET AND SOUR PORK, AND MA PO TOFU.
CAREFUL, OR YOU'LL GRATE YOURSELF.
I'M NO GOOD AT WRITING CHINESE CHARACTERS, BUT I LOVE THE FOOD.
WHAT'S THAT?
THIS? YAMA-KAKE.
YAMAKAKE WITH CHINESE FOOD?
I LIKE VARIETY.
SO I ALWAYS MAKE TOO MUCH AND I CAN NEVER FINISH IT ALL.
ESH
ESH
ESH
NOW, THE LIVER, AND...

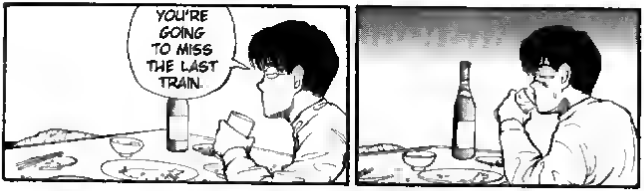

WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
I CAN'T EAT ALL THIS BY MYSELF.

NO POINT IN WASTING IT.
BESIDES, I STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS.

NOT BAD, EH?
I MADE MOST OF IT!
COME ON, SUEKICHI. DRINK UP.
NO THANKS.
AH, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A KOTATSU* FOR RELAXING.
FLUMP
OONOW
AH! OUR LEGS ARE TOUCHING!
BECAUSE YOU STRETCHED YOURS OUT!
HOW MUCH WAS IT AGAIN? FOUR HUNDRED MILLION YEN?
IN THE CITY, THAT MIGHT BUY YOU A PIECE OF LAND AND A HOUSE, BUT THAT'S ALL, RIGHT?
MONG

*KOTATSU: A LOW TABLE WITH A HEATER ON THE UNDERSIDE AND A QUILTED SKIRT TO KEEP IN THE WARMTH

I THINK I READ SOMEWHERE THAT THAT'S AS MUCH AS A SALARY WORKER MAKES IN HIS WHOLE LIFE.
HMM

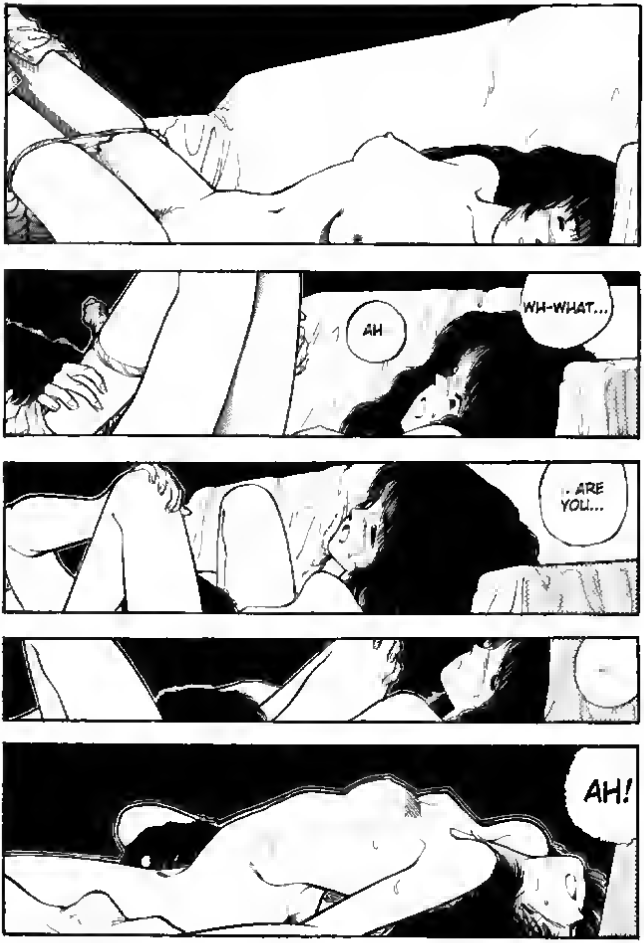

YOU'RE GOING TO MISS THE LAST TRAIN.

PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP AGAIN...
WOULD YOU... GO HOME ALREADY?

WHOA.
IF I GO HOME...
..I'LL JUST BE LONELY.
IT'S OKAY

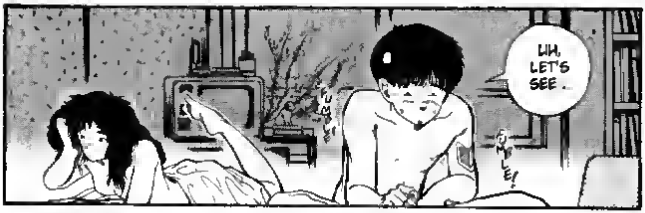
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
WHAT'S WRONG?
KISS ME...
THE LIGHT...
I'LL GET IT.
MONG

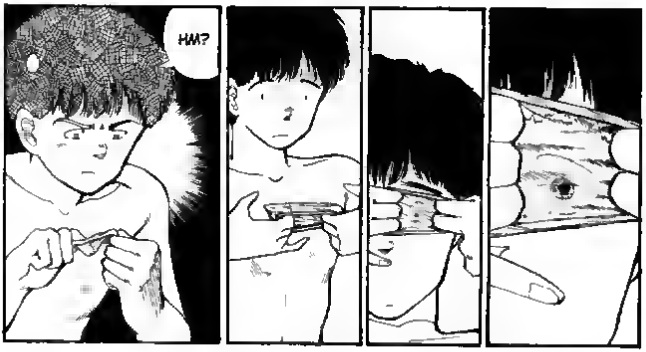
ISN'T THIS A BIT TOO EASY?
THAT'S THE WAY IT IS SOME-TIMES.
DO YOU HATE ME?
NO, I DON'T HATE YOU, BUT....
I DON'T HATE YOU EITHER.
ISN'T THAT GOOD ENOUGH?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME, RIGHT?
DID I DO THIS LAST TIME, TOO?


WH-WHAT...
AH
..ARE YOU...
AH!

BUT .. WHAT ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL?
THAT'S STRANGE. THERE'S A CONDOM RIGHT HERE.

... STRANGE ...
ISN'T IT?
M-MAYBE IT FELL OUT OF MR. IKEZU'S POCKET.
THAT MUST BE IT


UH, LET'S SEE..
HM
E!


HM?

WHAT IS IT?

AH-HAH! SO THAT'S IT!!!!
YOU WERE TRYING TO GET PREGNANT SO YOU CAN MAKE ME PAY PALIMONY!!
WHAT AN IMAGIN-ATION!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A HOLE IN THE CONDOM!!
AH-HAH! SO IT WAS YOUR CONDOM, WASN'T IT?
OF COURSE IT WAS!
NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE! THE MA PO TOFU WITH THE GARLIC! THE YAMAKAKE AND THE LIVER! AND THEN THE BOOZE! YOU WERE TRYING TO MAKE ME HORNY!!!
WHAT ABOUT THE SWEET AND SOUR PORK!? HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT!?
SHUT UP AND GET OUT!! JUST GET OUT, GET OUT, GET OUT!!

SHUT UP, OVER THERE!
BAM! BAM!
S-SORRY!!

HM?
sniff! sniff!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!

THE MONEY'S MAKING YOU CRAZY. IT'S ALL YOU THINK ABOUT.
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE VULTURES AT THE FUNERAL

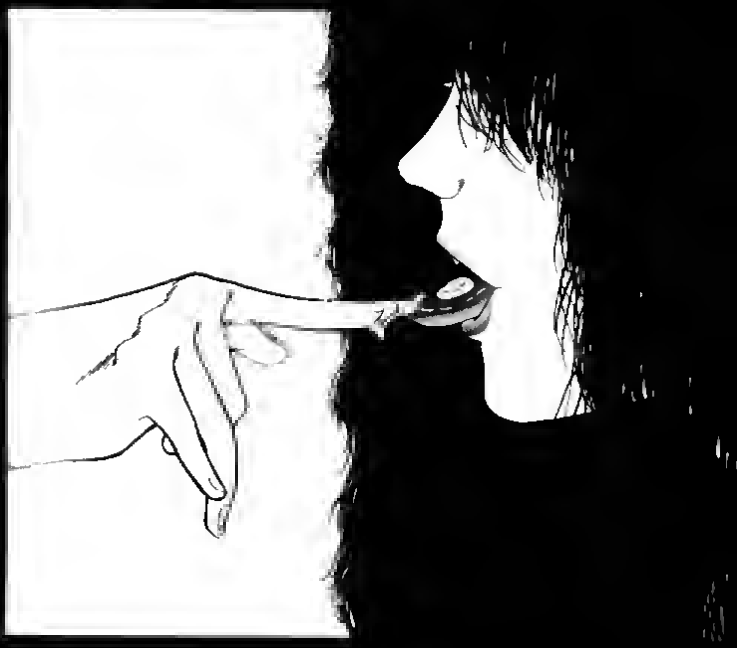
TO BE CONTINUED..

PULP
Vol. 2
No. 2
FEB '98

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT FOUR: **VISITORS AND VISITATIONS**

Story & Art by NAOKI YAMAMOTO



English Adaptation by MATT THORN Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi has just learned that he will inherit $4.5 mill on from his great-grandfather if he graduates. But a mysterious young woman named Aya is hell-bent on distracting him from his studies and his work with a local theater company. Last night Aya seduced Suekichi. But in the nick of time he discovered a gaping hole in the condom she proffered . Does she really like him or is she just plotting to slap him with a very costly paternity suit?

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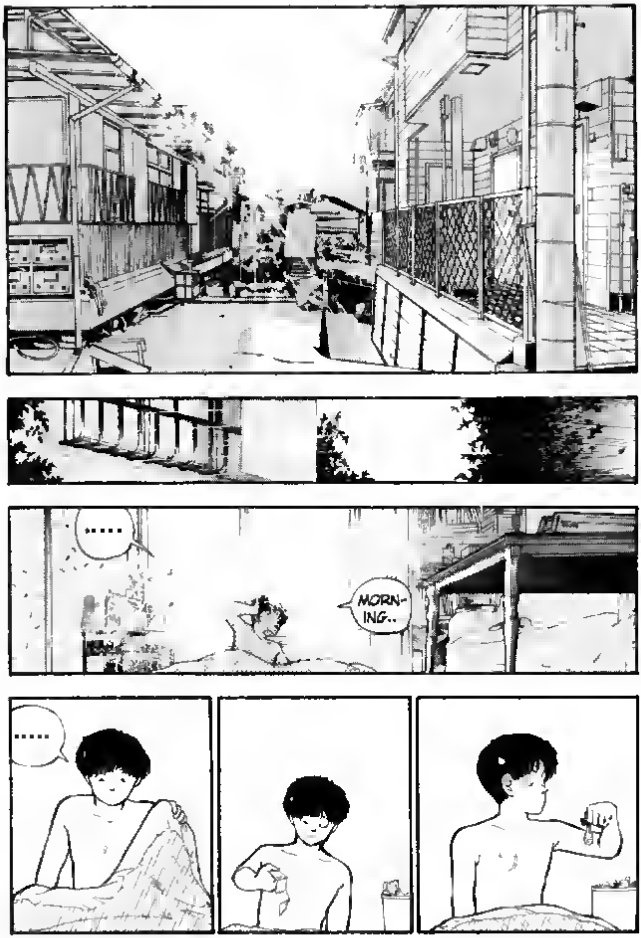
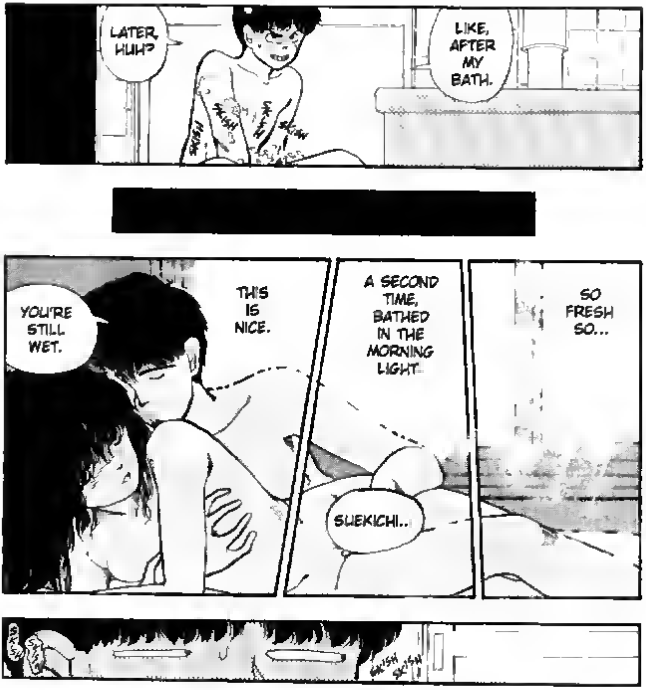
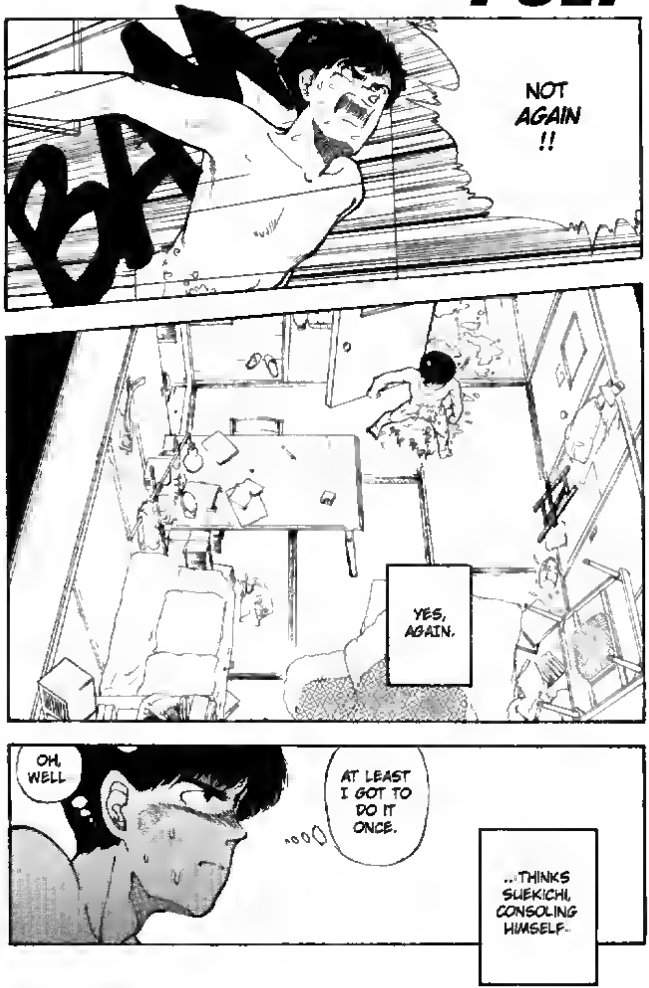

.....
MORN-
ING..
.....

DOES IT HURT?
UH-UH.
SAVORING THE AFTERGLOW
HM?
SPLISH
OH, SHE'S IN THE BATHTUB.

WOOSH
PLASH!
OO
LALA
I-I'LL GO JOIN HER.
CHA
THE DREADED "I'LL-GO-JOIN-HER" ATTACK.
MORNING. IT'S ALL YOURS.
WHAT, YOU'RE DONE?
MOST OF THESE STUDENT APARTMENTS DON'T HAVE A TUB. IS THIS PLACE EXPENSIVE?
IT'S CHEAP.
MUST BE 'CAUSE IT'S AN OLD BUILDING

UM ...
HM?
ONE MORE TIME?
AH ?
NO, NO, NO.
LA- TER.
LATER ?


LATER, HUH?
LIKE, AFTER MY BATH.
SHASH
SHASH
SHASH
YOU'RE STILL WET.
THIS IS NICE.
A SECOND TIME, BATHED IN THE MORNING LIGHT.
SO FRESH SO...
SUEKICHI..
SHASH
SHASH
AH!


BA
NOT AGAIN !!
YES, AGAIN.
OH, WELL
AT LEAST I GOT TO DO IT ONCE.
...
...THINKS SUEKICHI, CONSOLING HIMSELF-

BUY A TICKET ?
FOR WHAT ?
0156
A PLAY
THEATER, HUH?
YOU'LL LOVE IT
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU'RE IN THE THEATER, SUEKICHI?
JUST BACK-STAGE STUFF.
THAT'S RIGHT AROUND THE TIME WE HAVE THAT BIG TEST NEXT WEEK

THAT REMINDS ME. HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING NOTES?
YOU WANT MY NOTES?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA QUIT SCHOOL.
HOW MUCH ?
ALL RIGHT.
ONE TICKET AT HALF PRICE.
FIRST HE WANTS MY NOTES... NOW HE WANTS ME TO BUY A TICKET?
ALL RIGHT, ANSWER FOR ME WHEN THE PROF TAKES ATTENDANCE IN OUR NEXT LIT CLASS ..
...AND YOU CAN HAVE IT FOR FREE!
YOU'RE GONNA SKIP AGAIN?
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS!
I'LL GET THESE BACK TO YOU TOMORROW.
HEY !
THERE HE GOES.

HM ?
NAG NAG NAG!

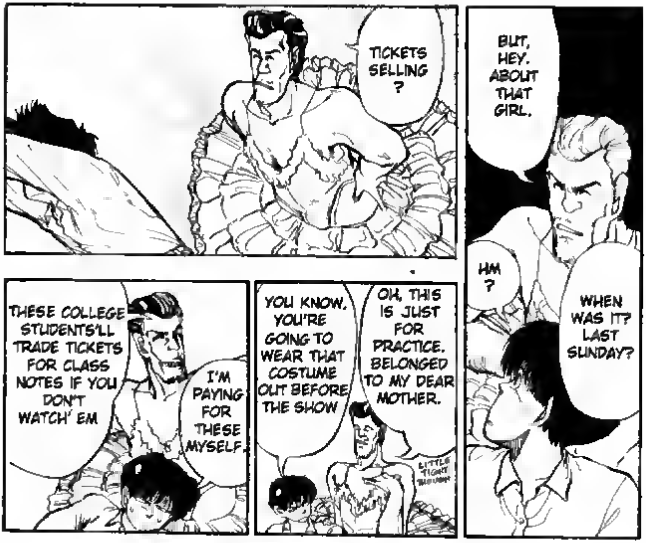
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE PREVIOUS BUILDING MANAGER SAID. NO SMOKING, EATING, OR DRINKING ALLOWED, PERIOD!!
WE DON'T HAVE TO RENT THIS SPACE TO YOU, AND IF THIS SORT OF THING CONTINUES, WE WON'T!!
YES, SIR!

HMPH! OKAY THEN

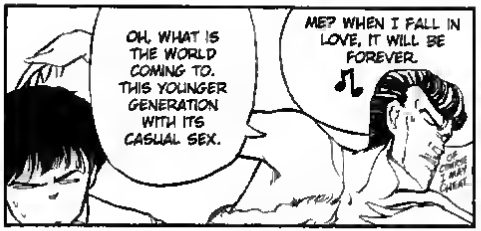
I-I'M SORRY
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?

DAMNED BUREAUCRATS
IT'S NOT AS IF WE DON'T CLEAN UP AFTER OURSELVES.
I GUESS IT'S TIME TO START LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE.

NOW RAISE YOUR LEG
HIGHER
HIGHER THAN THAT
WHOA! WUUW?
THAT'S IT
MUST BE THE LACK OF SLEEP.
NEED HELP WRITING THOSE ADDRESSES, SUEKICHI?
THAT'S A WRAP!
I'VE ALREADY SENT OUT ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THEM. THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT.

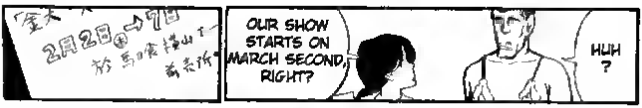

TICKETS SELLING ?
BUT, HEY. ABOUT THAT GIRL.
HM ?
WHEN WAS IT? LAST SUNDAY?
THESE COLLEGE STUDENTS'LL TRADE TICKETS FOR CLASS NOTES IF YOU DON'T WATCH' EM
I'M PAYING FOR THESE MYSELF.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR THAT COSTUME OUT BEFORE THE SHOW
OH, THIS IS JUST FOR PRACTICE. BELONGED TO MY DEAR MOTHER.
A LITTLE TIGHT AROUND

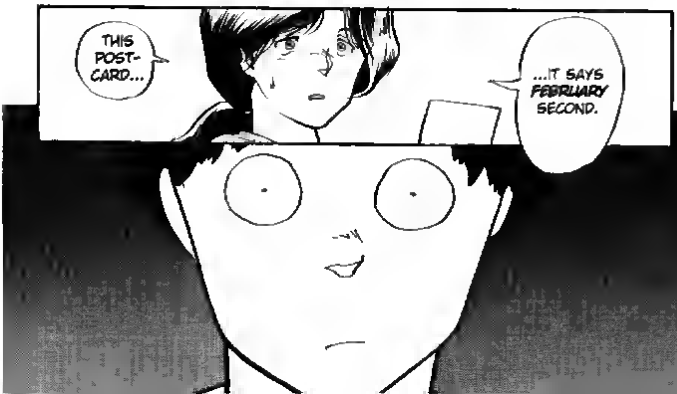
WHAT'S WITH THE FAR-AWAY LOOK?
IT'S BEEN A WEEK?
BONK!
NOTHING HAPPENED.
I SAT IN THAT TREE TILL DAWN.
OH, I SEE EVERY-THING'S HUMMING ALONG!
THAT WAS THE FIRST AND LAST TIME. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES.
WHAT!? YOU SAW THE WHOLE THING!?
OF COURSE NOT.
BUT YOU FELL FOR IT, YOU FOOL!


OH, WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO. THIS YOUNGER GENERATION WITH ITS CASUAL SEX.
ME? WHEN I FALL IN LOVE, IT WILL BE FOREVER.
OF COURSE I MAY CHEAT.

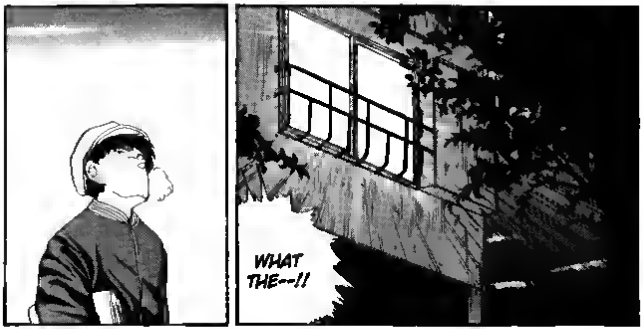
WILL YOU GET CHANGED, IKEZU?
YOU'RE GIVING ME THE WILLIES.
BUT I FEEL SO FREE!

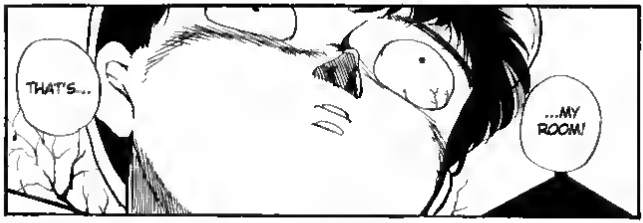
OH, SUE-HONEY, WE MUST DO LUNCH!
WOULD YOU STOP IT, PLEASE?


2月2日(金)7時
OUR SHOW STARTS ON MARCH SECOND, RIGHT?
HUH?


THIS POST-CARD...
...IT SAYS FEBRUARY SECOND.

<SIGH>
THAT'S HALF OF MY MONTH'S BUDGET GONE TO NEW POST-CARDS.
Post Office
Savings Account
HOW AM I GOING TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE MONTH?
1,500 POSTCARDS! THAT'S 60 THOUSAND YEN! WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT!!
EVERYONE'S GOING TO SHOW UP ON THE WRONG DAY!!
SIGH
HOW COULD YOU LET A MISTAKE LIKE THAT SLIP BY!?
WELL, YOU BETTER TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR IT!
YOU COLLEGE STUDENTS DON'T TAKE THIS WORK SERIOUSLY. THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
GROCER
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M ALMOST OUT OF KEROSENE ..


WHAT THE--!!

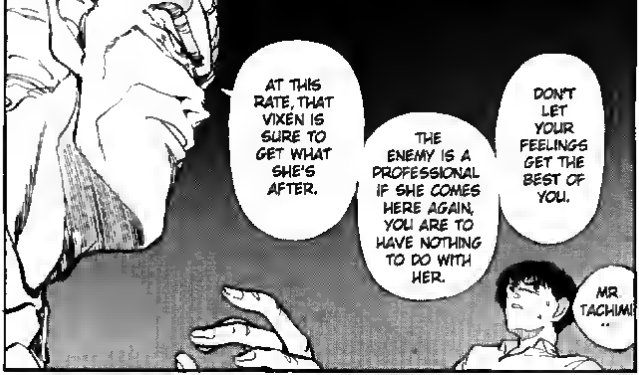

THAT'S...
...MY ROOM!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
THIS SMELL.
CHINESE!
YOU'RE HERE !!
BAM

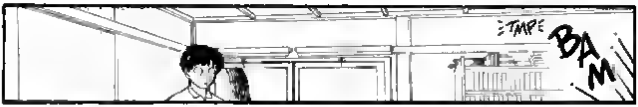
WELCOME HOME.
I THOUGHT I'D MAKE DINNER WHILE I WAS WAITING.
I LEARNED TO COOK IN SHANGHAI WAY BACK IN--
I NEED AN ADVANCE ON MY INHERIT-ANCE!
I CAN'T HAVE AN ADVANCE? WHY NOT?
IT WAS DAIKICHI'S WISH THAT YOU RECEIVE NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT UNTIL YOU INHERIT HIS STAMP COLLECTION ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS OF HIS WILL.
BUT NEVER MIND THAT I CAME TO INFORM YOU...
...THAT THERE IS NO SUCH PERSON...
...AS "AYA HIBINO."

IN ORDER TO PREVENT WORD FROM SPREADING TO OTHER RELATIVES...
...I LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION AND DISCOVERED THAT NO ONE BY THAT NAME IS EVEN REMOTELY RELATED TO THE LATE DAIKICHI.
YOU MEAN THAT GIRL IS...
HAS SHE BEEN COMING AROUND?
HUH?
SHE HAS, HASN'T SHE?
GULP

WHAT'S MORE, YOU'VE HAD "RELATIONS" WITH HER.
THAT MAKES IT SOUND REALLY CRUDE.
NOW, BY "RELATIONS," YOU'RE NOT IMPLYING--
YOU HAVE, HAVEN'T YOU?
YES, SIR
INFILTRATING A FUNERAL SHE HAS NO CONNECTION WITH, CONCEALING HER REAL IDENTITY, USING HER BODY AS A WEAPON.
THERE'S NO DOUBT SHE'S AFTER THE INHERITANCE.
THIS IS THE WORK OF A PRO.
WHAT KIND OF PRO?


AT THIS RATE, THAT VIXEN IS SURE TO GET WHAT SHE'S AFTER.
THE ENEMY IS A PROFESSIONAL IF SHE COMES HERE AGAIN, YOU ARE TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HER.
DON'T LET YOUR FEELINGS GET THE BEST OF YOU.
MR. TACHIMI ..

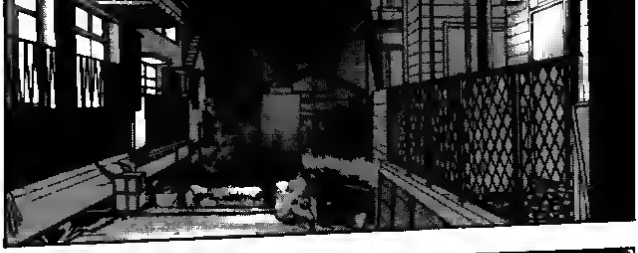
I'LL BE OFF NOW.
I MUST PLAN A STRATEGY AT ONCE.


TAP!
BAM

PHEW, IT'S AWFULLY STUFFY IN THERE.
SHISH
RED

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT FIVE
DO NOT DISTURB



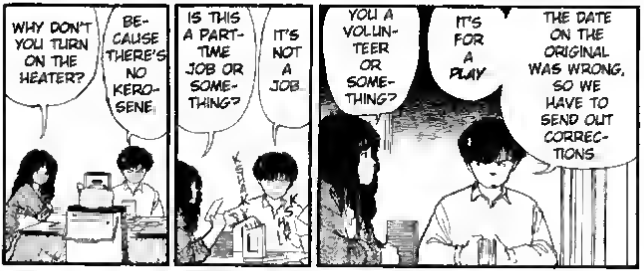
CLOSETS ARE SO RELAXING.
MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP.

OUCH.
WHUMP
YOU SMELL LIKE BOOZE.
OH, YESH?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK WHY I WAS IN THE CLOSET?
LET ME GUESS. YOU SNUCK IN THROUGH THE WINDOW, MR TACHIMI SHOWED UP, SO YOU HID IN THE CLOSET.
SHSHSHSHSH

GOOD NIGHT!!
BAM
PHEW.
HOW COME YOU'RE SO MEAN TO ME?
THUD
COME ON.
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE?
PLEASE.
DON'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE.
DON'T ABANDON ME TO THE SOLITUDE OF THE CITY.
YOU MUSTN'T LET YOURSELF BE TRICKED!
BACK, VIPER.

WHY ?

WHY DO I HAVE TO WRITE ADDRESSES ON ALL THESE POSTCARDS?
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE, DO YOU?
THERE'S 1,500 OF'EM, SO DON'T WASTE TIME WONDERING WHY.
KSHAK
KSHAK
KSHAK


WHY DON'T YOU TURN ON THE HEATER?
BE-CAUSE THERE'S NO KERO-SENE.
IS THIS A PART-TIME JOB OR SOME-THING?
IT'S NOT A JOB.
YOU A VOLUN-TEER OR SOME-THING?
IT'S FOR A PLAY
THE DATE ON THE ORIGINAL WAS WRONG, SO WE HAVE TO SEND OUT CORREC-TIONS

YOU'RE IN THE THEATER?
IS THE MONEY ANY GOOD?
MOVE YOUR HAND NOT YOUR MOUTH.

HEY, YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING ELSE.
FINALS BEGIN TOMORROW
YOU'RE A BUSY GUY, SUEKICHI
.....
JUST MOVE YOUR HANDS.
TICK TICK TICK TICK
MMMM
HM..?

ZZZZ
AH!
SHE USES HER BODY AS A WEAPON
NGH
WHY'RE YOU SLEEPING ON ME?
HM...?

BUT I'M SLEEPY AND COLD
QUIT HANGING ON ME!!
HOW COME YOU'VE GOT A BALD SPOT?
I GOT IT STUDYING FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS
HOW COME YOU'VE STILL GOT IT?
IT'S GETTING SMALLER
IF IT'S STILL THERE, YOU MUST STILL BE STRESSED OUT.
ABOUT WHAT ?
NOW SHOULD I KNOW?

WHA --
MAYBE I CAN KISS IT AND MAKE IT BETTER.
DON'T BE SHY, NOW. OH, I FEEL SOMETHING HARD.
WHO, ME?
DON'T TEASE IF YOU DON'T MEAN IT.
SURE I MEAN IT!
STROKE
STROKE
YOU'RE STILL DRUNK.
EH ?
ALL RIGHT.

WHAT ?
COME ON.
DON'T YOU HAVE TO STUDY?
AFTER-WARDS
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT ALL MEN ARE REALLY AFTER.
YOU CAME ON TO ME!!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
SUE-KICHI?

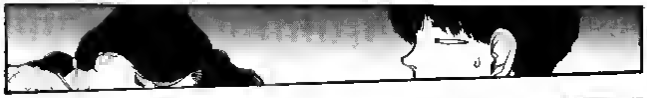
WERE YOU ASLEEP ?
N-NO !
C-COME ON IN
I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU THIS AFTER-NOON
I WANTED TO COME EARLIER TO HELP, BUT I HAD TO WORK.
HEY, WHY DO I HAVE TO HIDE IN HERE?
SHA'
I'M IMPOSING, AREN'T I?
N-NO, NO, NO, NO
THIS IS MY, UH, NIECE. SHE LIVES IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
REALLY, AYA, FALLING ASLEEP IN THE CLOSET LIKE THAT
PAP

GLUG GLUG GLUG
SO, SHE'S YOUR TROUPE LEADER?
W--WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SO THAT'S YOUR TYPE, HUH?
YEAH, WE WERE DOING SOMETHING ELSE ANYWAY
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.
IT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU TO HELP OUT.

THE THEATER'S NOT YOUR REAL JOB?
IT'S "REAL" ENOUGH, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE A LIVING AT IT, SO MOST OF US HAVE OTHER JOBS
SO IT DOESN'T PAY AT ALL, HUH?
AYA !
I MEAN, YOU DON'T GET A SALARY, RIGHT?
SOME-TIMES WE WORK IN THE RED.
SO YOU'RE AMATEURS, THEN?
IT DOESN'T PAY, SO YOU HAVE OTHER JOBS, RIGHT?
WELL... BUT PEOPLE DO PAY TO SEE US PERFORM.
ARE YOU HOPING TO GET ON TV?
NOT REALLY.
HM?

AH ...
BONK!
WAKE UP!!

TICK TICK TICK
HM ?
ZZZZ
GHOOR



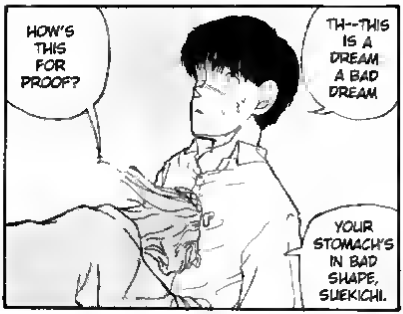
SHE LOOKS SWEET WHEN SHE'S SLEEPING, EH, SUEKICHI?
HUH ?

MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN.
HOWDY.

IT'S ME.
DON'T YOU RECOG-NIZE YOUR GREAT-GRANDPA'S FACE?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE--
A GHOST. THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS IS RIDICULOUS. TO BEGIN WITH, I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.
WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IN THEM OR NOT, HERE I AM.
ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO...


HOW'S THIS FOR PROOF?
TH--THIS IS A DREAM. A BAD DREAM.
YOUR STOMACH'S IN BAD SHAPE, SUEKICHI.

SO YOU'RE TRAPPED IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE OF SOME PROFOUND REGRET?

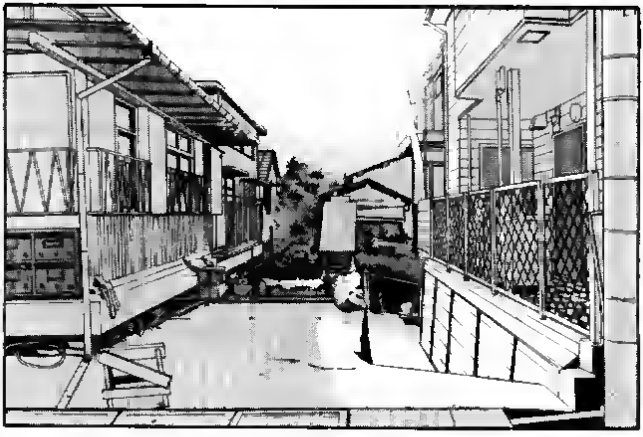
NOPE.

JUST THOUGHT I'D COME SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING.
IT'S NICE BEING A GHOST YOU CAN GO ANY-WHERE.
YESTERDAY I PEEPED IN ON KATHERINE HEPBURN WHILE SHE WAS BATHING.
THIS ISN'T THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE
WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?

YOU MAY BE HAVING A GRAND OLD TIME AS A GHOST, BUT DOWN HERE THINGS ARE PRETTY ROUGH.
THANKS TO YOUR INHERITANCE, I'VE GOT THIS CRAZY GIRL ALL OVER ME AND I CAN'T QUIT COLLEGE.

YOU DON'T LIKE MONEY, SUEKICHI?
IT'S BETTER THAN BEING POOR.
YOU DON'T LIKE GIRLS, SUEKICHI?
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I DON'T
LEAVE ME ALONE
SO, LIKE, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, DUDE?
SLANG DOESN'T SUIT YOU, GRAMPS
THE PROBLEM ISN'T THAT I DON'T LIKE MONEY OR GIRLS--
JUDGING FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, YOU SEEM TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT.
ZZZZ
BAHOOR
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
WAS THIS THE ONE YOU WERE GAZING AT, SUEKICHI?
HM?
GUUU
THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU'RE A GHOST.
WAH!!

COME UP AND SEE ME SOME TIME...
SNOOR
...BIG FELLA.
YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR AGE, GRANDPA
I MEAN...
WAH-H-H-H-H!!



TO BE CONTINUED...

ACT SIX
AN ACTOR'S LIFE

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

English Adaptation by MATT THORN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR..

College student Suekich recently learned that he will inherit $4.5 million from his great-grandfather if he graduates. But he much prefers his job as producer of an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a huge crush on the troupe's dedicated and creative leader Shimomura. At the same time, Suekich can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Ayu, even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

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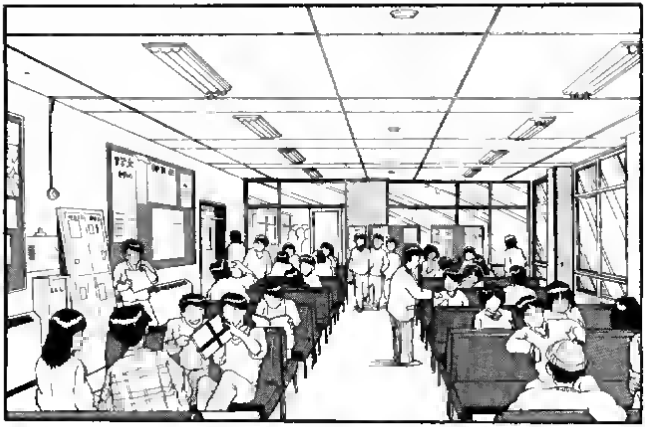
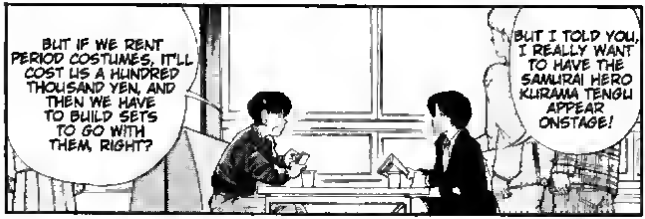
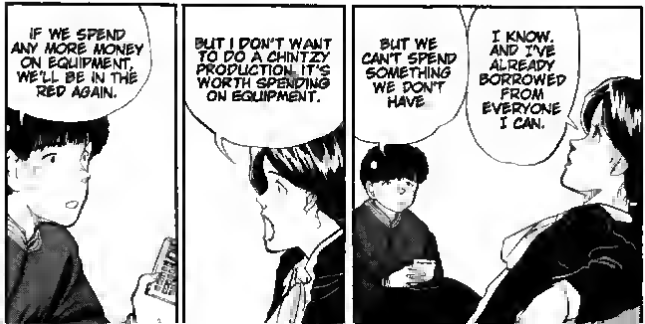



BUT IF WE RENT PERIOD COSTUMES, IT'LL COST US A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN, AND THEN WE HAVE TO BUILD SETS TO GO WITH THEM, RIGHT?
BUT I TOLD YOU, I REALLY WANT TO HAVE THE SAMURAI HERO KURAMA TENGU APPEAR ONSTAGE!


IF WE SPEND ANY MORE MONEY ON EQUIPMENT, WE'LL BE IN THE RED AGAIN.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO A CHINTZY PRODUCTION. IT'S WORTH SPENDING ON EQUIPMENT.
BUT WE CAN'T SPEND SOMETHING WE DON'T HAVE
I KNOW. AND I'VE ALREADY BORROWED FROM EVERYONE I CAN.

WE ALWAYS RUN UP AGAINST THE SAME WALL.

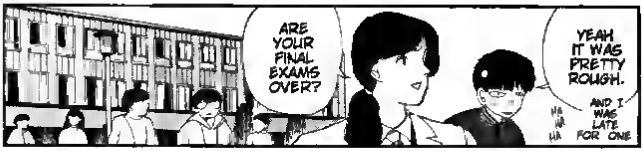
I WANT MONEY! MONEY IS WHAT I WANT!

ACTUALLY, I HAVE A 450 MILLION YEN INHERITANCE. I WANT YOU TO USE IT.
JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE ARTISTIC SIDE OF THE THEATER AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT MONEY.

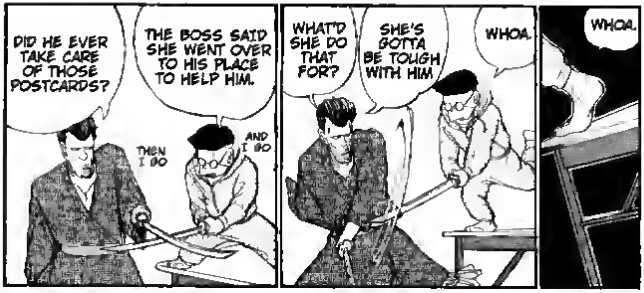
IT'S TIME FOR REHEARSAL. LET'S GO.
OH, NOTHING.

I'D LOOK PRETTY COOL SAYING THAT, BUT I WON'T GET TO...
...TILL FOUR YEARS FROM NOW
WHAT IS IT?

SORRY YOU HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY TO SCHOOL TO MEET ME.
NO PROBLEM. IT'S RIGHT ON MY WAY FROM WORK TO THE REHEARSAL STUDIO.


ARE YOUR FINAL EXAMS OVER?
YEAH. IT WAS PRETTY ROUGH.
AND I WAS LATE FOR ONE

WHERE'S SHIMOMURA?
SHE'S MEETING SUEKICHI TO TALK ABOUT THE PRODUCTION.
LIKE THIS
AND THIS.


DID HE EVER TAKE CARE OF THOSE POSTCARDS?
THE BOSS SAID SHE WENT OVER TO HIS PLACE TO HELP HIM.
THEN I DO
AND I DO
WHAT'D SHE DO THAT FOR?
SHE'S GOTTA BE TOUGH WITH HIM
WHOA.
WHOA.

IT'S BEEN GOING PRETTY SMOOTHLY THIS TIME, HASN'T IT? WE FINISHED THE SCRIPT EARLY, AND WE'VE SOLD SOME ADVANCE TICKETS.
NO TROUBLES SO FAR

NO INJURIES YET, EITHER.
KRAK

YOU JUST TWISTED IT. QUIT ACTING LIKE A BABY.
BUT IT REALLY HURTS.

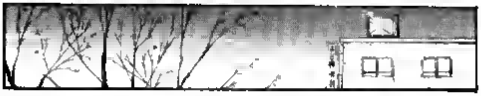
WHAT HAPPENED?
HEY, SUEKICHI. TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL, WILL YA?

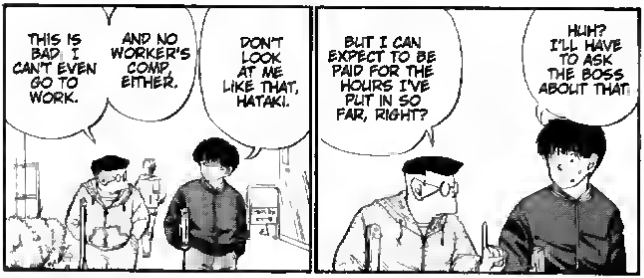
WHAT ABOUT CAB FARE?
DUMMY. WHAT DO YOU THINK AMBULANCES ARE FOR?
FOR JUST A TWISTED ANKLE?

THAT'S WHY WE PAY TAXES
AS IF YOU PAY ANY TAXES.

NEE-OOH
NEE-OOH

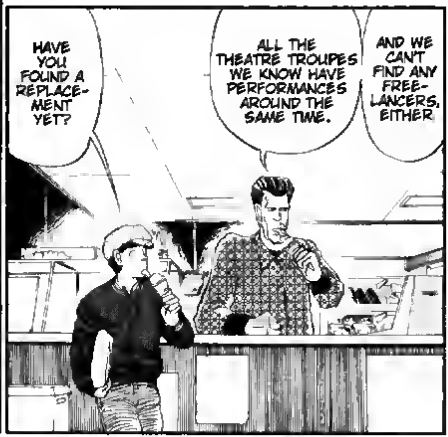
IT'S BROKEN ALL RIGHT
IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST A MONTH TO HEAL

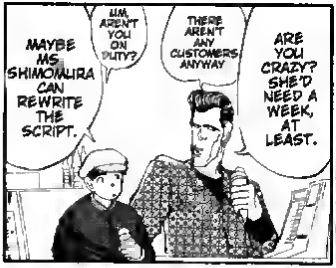



THIS IS BAD. I CAN'T EVEN GO TO WORK.
AND NO WORKER'S COMP, EITHER.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, HATAKI.
BUT I CAN EXPECT TO BE PAID FOR THE HOURS I'VE PUT IN SO FAR, RIGHT?
HUH? I'LL HAVE TO ASK THE BOSS ABOUT THAT.

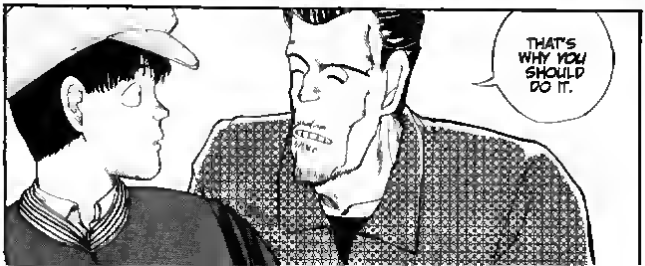
HATAKI !!
THANKS, SUEKICHI!
tmp tmp tmp

2F RENTAL VIDEO & CD
SIXTY

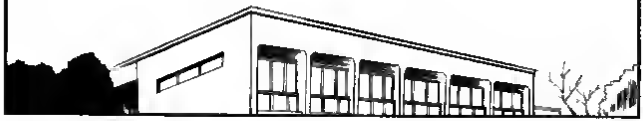

HAVE YOU FOUND A REPLACE-MENT YET?
ALL THE THEATRE TROUPES WE KNOW HAVE PERFORMANCES AROUND THE SAME TIME.
AND WE CAN'T FIND ANY FREE-LANCERS, EITHER


MAYBE MS. SHIMOMURA CAN REWRITE THE SCRIPT.
UM, AREN'T YOU ON DUTY?
THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS ANYWAY
ARE YOU CRAZY? SHE'D NEED A WEEK, AT LEAST.

BUT THERE ARE JUST THREE WEEKS TILL THE SHOW.
THAT'S RIGHT.

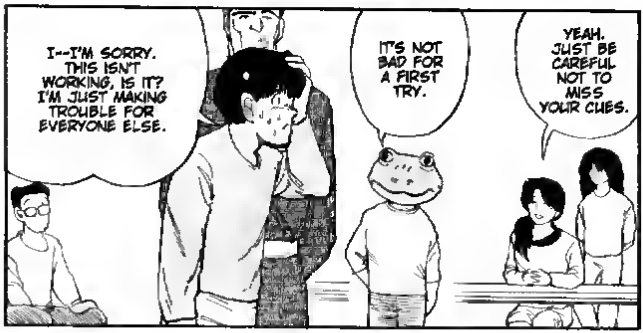

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD DO IT.

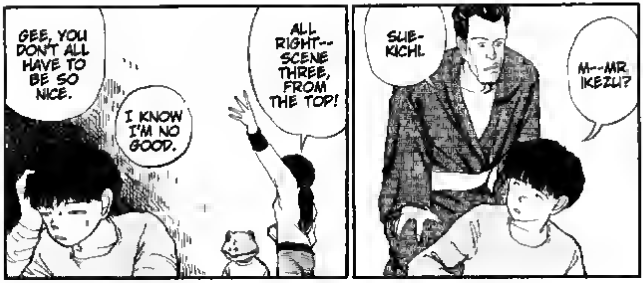
DO WHAT?
"DO WHAT?" PLAY THE PART, BOZO.
B--BUT, I JUST HANDLE THE TECHNICAL STUFF. I'VE NEVER ACTED.
DON'T SWEAT IT. YOUR PART HAS THE LEAST LINES.
AND THREE WEEKS IS ENOUGH TO LEARN THE FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY.
BESIDES, THE PRODUCTION WORK IS MOSTLY FINISHED, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO PUT YOU ON THE STAGE.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE STUFF.
I--I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT.
I SEE. WELL, THAT'LL BE A HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEN FOR THE ICE CREAM.
ching!
YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR TREAT!
YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!!
WEL-COME !!
WA H!



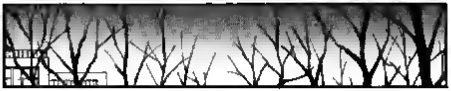
S--STOP, PLEASE. I HAVE A WIFE AND CHILDREN...
..AND A SEVENTY-YEAR-OLD --OOPS.

UM..


I--I'M SORRY. THIS ISN'T WORKING, IS IT? I'M JUST MAKING TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE ELSE.
IT'S NOT BAD FOR A FIRST TRY.
YEAH. JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO MISS YOUR CUES.


GEE, YOU DON'T ALL HAVE TO BE SO NICE.
I KNOW I'M NO GOOD.
ALL RIGHT--- SCENE THREE, FROM THE TOP!
SUE-KICHI.
M--MR. IKEZU?

YOU RE-E-E-ALLY SLICK, YOU KNOW THAT?
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA!

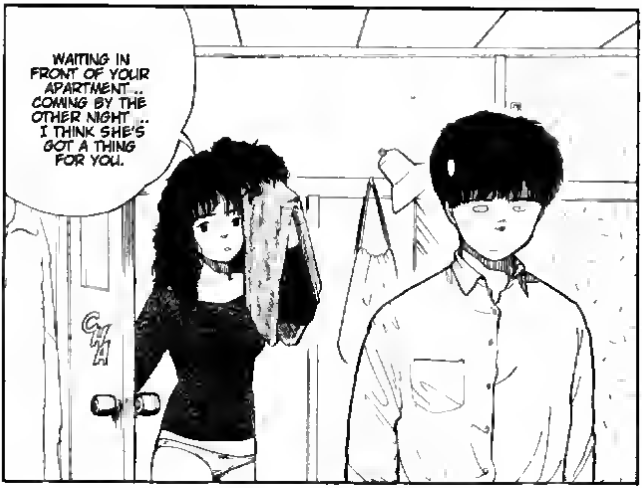


<SIGH>

HEY THERE.
OH--MS. SHIMOMURA.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU I SCROUNGED UP SOME MONEY.
NOW WE CAN RENT THE COSTUMES.
WOW! WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS?
DON'T TELL ME YOU WENT TO THE STREETS?
DON'T BE SILLY. THERE'S NOTHING FISHY ABOUT IT.
I JUST BEGGED MY BOSS FOR AN ADVANCE ON MY SALARY.

YOU REALLY LOVE THE THEATER, DON'T YOU?
DON'T WE ALL?
NO ONE MAKES ANY MONEY, SO THEY MUST DO IT FOR LOVE.
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT, RIGHT?
I--I GUESS NOT.
DON'T YOU WANT TO PLAY THE ROLE, SUEKICHI?
N--NO, IT'S NOT THAT, IT'S JUST THAT . .
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T THINK I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.
WE'LL BE PRACTICING DAY AND NIGHT NEXT WEEK, RIGHT? I'VE GOT TO EARN SOME MONEY WHILE I CAN
YOU'RE GOING?
NOT TO MENTION THE ADVANCE.
I THINK PLAYING THIS ROLE WILL BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR YOU AS PRODUCER.
GIVE IT YOUR BEST I WILL, TOO.

BAM!


WAITING IN FRONT OF YOUR APARTMENT... COMING BY THE OTHER NIGHT... I THINK SHE'S GOT A THING FOR YOU.

I'D FORGET IT IF I WERE YOU. SHE'S THE OBSESSIVE TYPE
SNUCK IN AGAIN, HUH?
FWO
YOU'RE GOING TO ACT?
I WASN'T GOING TO, BUT NOW I'M STUCK
FWO

ANYTHING FOR MS. SHIMOHIRA, HUH?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

YOU'RE GOING?
I JUST CAME TO BORROW YOUR BATHTUB.

WAIT.

I JUST CAME TO USE THE TUB OR ARE YOU THINKING OF USING ME AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR HER?
BUY A TICKET.

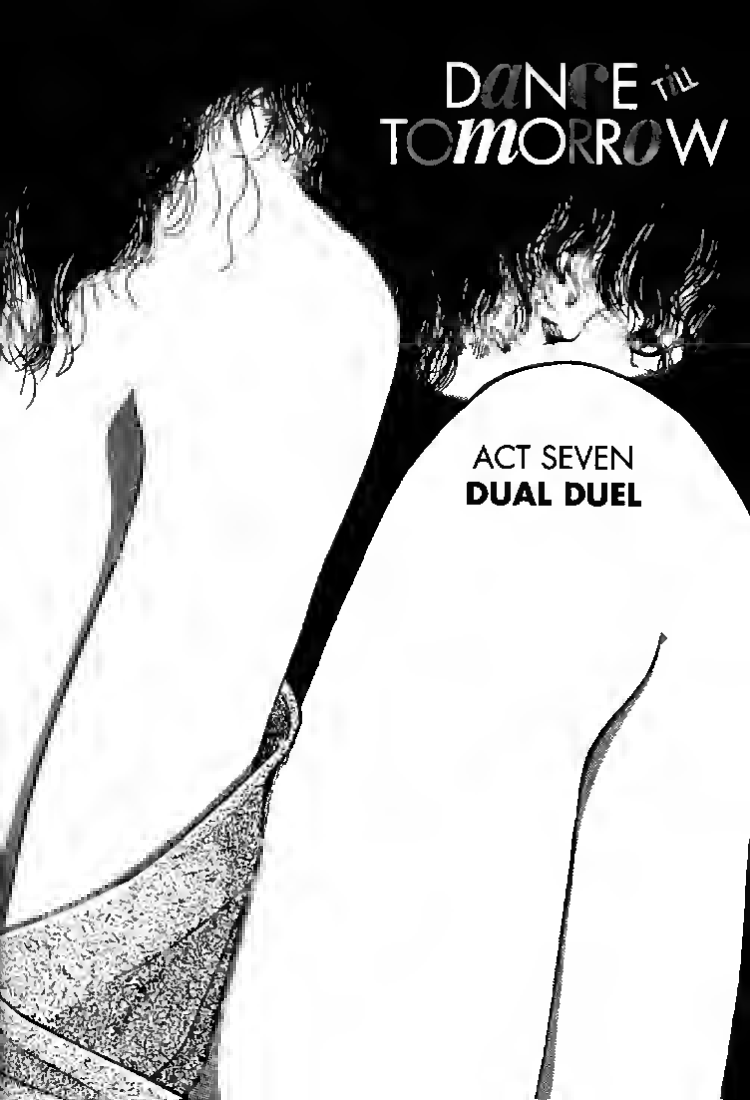
...

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.

PLEASE. PLEASE I HAVE A WIFE AND CHILDREN AND A SIXTY-YEAR-OLD MOTHER.
HEH, HEH, HEH. YOUR MOUTH SAYS STOP, BUT YOUR BODY ...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
AND NOW YOU TAKE THE STAGE.

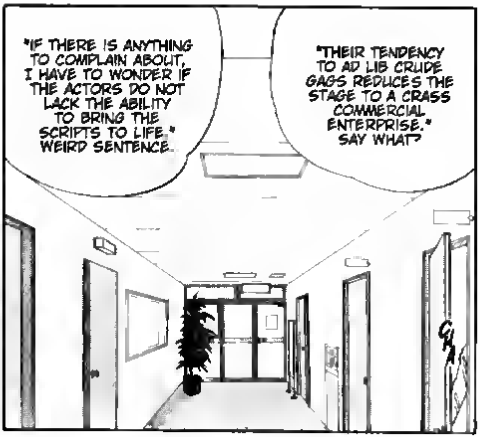
NOT BAD, SUEKICHI, NOT BAD.
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER.
THINK SO?
YOU'RE DOING FINE.
I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT, IKEZU
THAT SURPRISES YOU?
OH, REALLY, NOW. YOU CALL THAT ACTING?
SURELY YOU DON'T INTEND TO MAKE PEOPLE PAY TO SEE THAT?

I HEAR YOU ARE IN NEED OF AN ACTOR!
KOK! KARA-WARAI. FREE-LANCE ACTOR.
MY CARD
UM ...
NO, WE AREN'T.
YOU AREN'T? SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN TO HAND OVER A ROLE TO SUCH A RANK AMATEUR?
tak tak tak
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. IT IS TO LAUGH
BUT HAVE NO FEAR, KARAWARAI IS HERE
WHO INVITED THIS GUY?

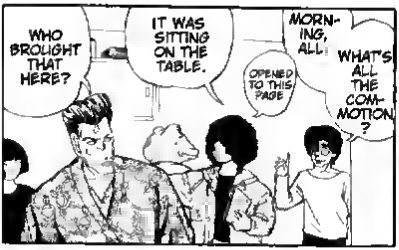

DANCE TILL TOMORROW
ACT SEVEN
DUAL DUEL

WHAT'S IT SAY? WHAT'S IT SAY?
"AMONG THE SMALL THEATER TROUPES MAKING THEIR DEBUT LAST YEAR, MASAMI SHIMOMURA'S TROUPE"...
". HAS BEEN WORKING ITS WAY INTO THE HEARTS OF THEATERGOERS WITH ITS EXTREME--AND EXTREMELY FUNNY--STORYLINES."
WHAT'S THAT?
THERE'S A PIECE ON US IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION OF MONTHLY OBSCURE.
"DESERVING OF SPECIAL NOTE ARE THE SCRIPTS AND DYNAMIC DIRECTION OF THE TROUPE'S LEADER, MS. MASAMI SHIMOMURA."
A RAVE REVIEW.

BUT WAIT.
OBSCURE


"IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT, I HAVE TO WONDER IF THE ACTORS DO NOT LACK THE ABILITY TO BRING THE SCRIPTS TO LIFE." WEIRD SENTENCE.
"THEIR TENDENCY TO AD LIB CRUDE GAGS REDUCES THE STAGE TO A CRASS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE." SAY WHAT?

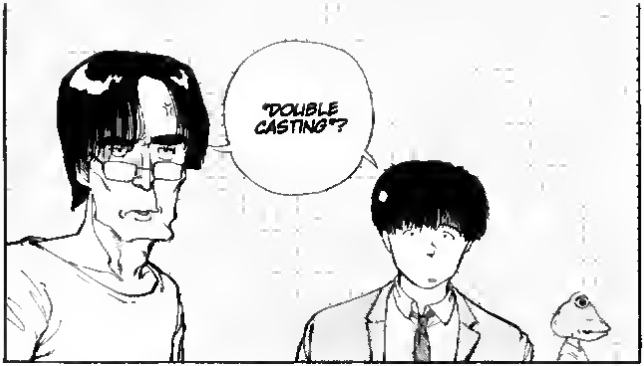
"WHAT I FIND MOST OBJECTIONABLE, HOWEVER, IS THE LACK OF TASTE AND CRUDENESS AS EVIDENCED IN THE CHOICE OF A NAME FOR THE TROUPE. BONDAGE HORSE"
WHAT IS THIS? BASICALLY, HE'S DUMPING ON US.


WHO BROUGHT THAT HERE?
IT WAS SITTING ON THE TABLE.
OPENED TO THIS PAGE
MORNING, ALL.
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?

OH, THAT ARTICLE.
ACTUALLY, I WROTE THAT. NOT TO BRAG OR ANYTHING.

YOU SEE, THE EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY OBSCURE, SHIMOMEGURO, IS AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MY FATHER. HE STOPS BY OUR PLACE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
SO, I WRITE FOR HIS MAGAZINE ON OCCASION, AND THIS TIME I DECIDED TO WRITE ABOUT YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LET'S WARM UP.
WHERE'S SUEKICHI?
RUNNING ERRANDS?
HOW'S THE REVISING COMING ALONG?
YOU KNOW, MS SHIMOMURA, I RECOGNIZED YOUR TALENT VERY EARLY ON.
I PARTICULARLY LIKED YOUR EARLY WORKS. I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD SHIMOMEGURO HE JUST HAD TO SEE YOUR PLAYS.
I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR A CHANCE TO WORK WITH YOU!
THANKS
BUT, REALLY, I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THAT VULGAR NAME "BONDAGE HORSE"!
I'M SURE THESE OTHERS FOISTED IT ON YOU
ACTUALLY, IT WAS MY IDEA.

OH. SO, IS IT A REFERENCE TO SSM AS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION IN WHICH THE BODY SERVES AS A CODE?
I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A DIRTY NAME, THAT'S ALL.
GOOD MORN-ING...
SORRY I'M LATE. I WAS CHECKING WITH THE TICKET AGENCIES.
IT'S RARE TO SEE TECHNICAL STAFF ATTENDING REHEARSALS REGULARLY. VERY IMPRESSIVE.
I ALWAYS SAY, THE BEST TECHNICAL PEOPLE ARE THOSE WHO LOVE THE THEATER.
MASSAGE
MASSAGE
UH, SURE.
UM, HEY, I FORGOT TO MENTION IT, BUT, UM...
..YOU SEE...


"DOUBLE CASTING"?

COULD YOU MEAN HIM AND ME?
LIM...
THAT'S RIGHT.
RIGHT, BOSS?
MRF

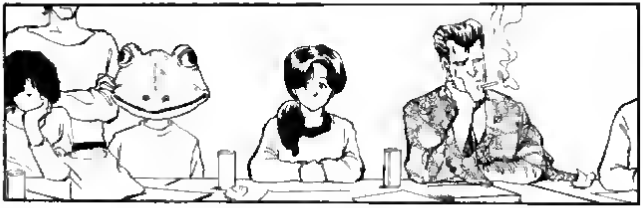
ARE YOU SAYING I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
I FIND THAT HARD TO ACCEPT.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
WHY DO I STILL HAVE TO PLAY THE PART NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT HIM?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INVITED HIM, AREN'T YOU?
WORD GOT AROUND AND HE CAME ON HIS OWN!
HMM...
COME ON-- IT'S NO BIG DEAL

WELL... IN THAT CASE...
.. WHY NOT HAVE AN AUDITION?

AUDI-TION?
YOU CAN ALL JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES. THEN YOU CAN MAKE UP YOUR MINDS
BUT THE PART IS JUST "FARMER NUMBER FOUR."

THAT'S THE WRONG ATTITUDE. AS THE GREAT NANIGAWA ONCE SAID, A TROUPE THAT MAKES LIGHT OF "FARMER NUMBER FOUR" CAN'T PUT ON A GOOD SHOW.
HE SAID THAT?
TSK. TSK. TSK. TSK. TSK.

ANYWAY, YOU CAN GO FIRST.
BUT I WON'T REST ON MY LAURELS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AN AMATEUR.
SUEKICHI, IF YOU LOUSE UP ON PURPOSE, I'LL KILL YOU!



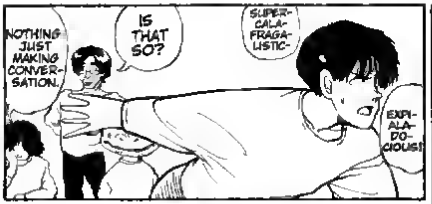
RUMPEL-

STILT-SKIN
EH?

GLARE
GLARE
GLARE!

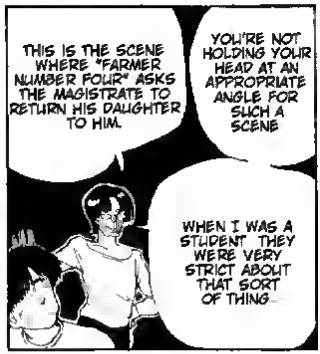
DO WE REALLY NEED AN AUDITION TO CHOOSE "FARMER NUMBER FOUR"?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

WHAT DIFFER-ENCE...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT DIFFER-ENCE"?


NOTHING JUST MAKING CONVERSATION.
IS THAT SO?
SUPER-CALA-FRAGA-LISTIC-
EXPI-ALA-DO-CIOUS!

THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO DO IT, NOW, IS IT!?
HUH?

SO I'M BEGGING YOU, MAGIS-TRATE
PLEASE --


THIS IS THE SCENE WHERE "FARMER NUMBER FOUR" ASKS THE MAGISTRATE TO RETURN HIS DAUGHTER TO HIM.
YOU'RE NOT HOLDING YOUR HEAD AT AN APPROPRIATE ANGLE FOR SUCH A SCENE
WHEN I WAS A STUDENT THEY WERE VERY STRICT ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING

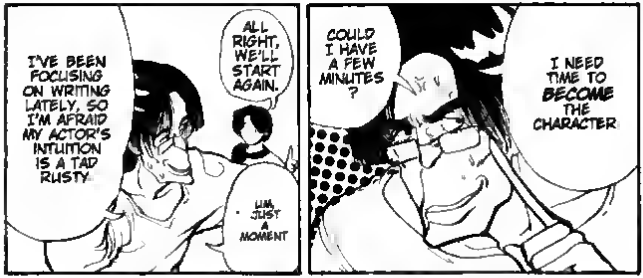
BESIDES, YOUR ENUNCIATION IS OFF. YOU'RE NOT SPEAKING FROM YOUR DIAPHRAGM, ARE YOU?
TRY SAYING "AH" FOR ME..
AH
YOU SEE?

CAN THE ACTING LESSON WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE AUDITION?
OOPS SORRY.
I HAVE A BAD HABIT OF BLURTING OUT MY THOUGHTS.

NOW IT'S MY TURN.
HUH ?
TMP!
OOPS! PARDON ME
I WON'T LOSE...
...TO YOU.
CUE ME WHENEVER YOU'RE READY
ALL RIGHT

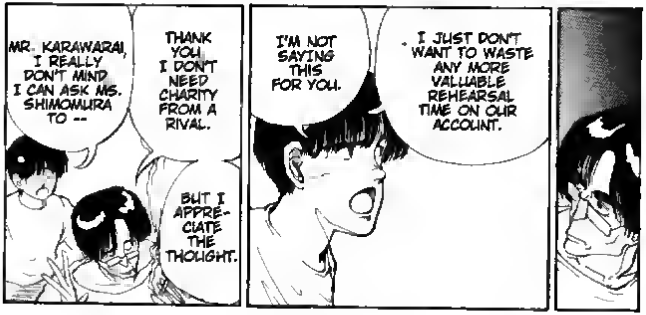
ACTION !
CLAP!
JOHN JACOB... JINGLE-HEIMER SCHMIDT!!

UM .


I'VE BEEN FOCUSING ON WRITING LATELY, SO I'M AFRAID MY ACTOR'S INTUITION IS A TAD RUSTY.
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL START AGAIN.
UM, JUST A MOMENT
COULD I HAVE A FEW MINUTES ?
I NEED TIME TO BECOME THE CHARACTER

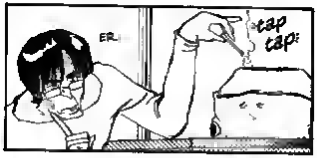
A METHOD ACTOR, HUH?

IT'S BEEN HALF AN HOUR.
WHO INVITED THAT GUY HERE, ANYWAY?
UM

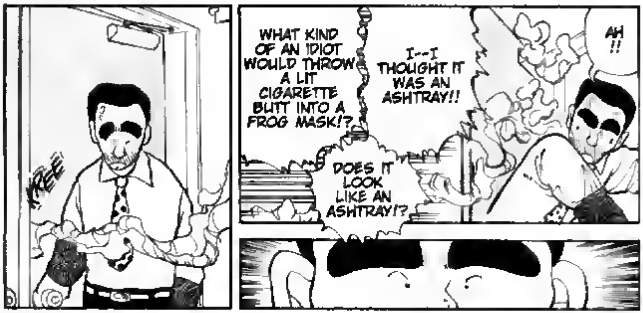

MR. KARAWARAI, I REALLY DON'T MIND I CAN ASK MS. SHIMOMURA TO --
THANK YOU. I DON'T NEED CHARITY FROM A RIVAL.
BUT I APPRE-CIATE THE THOLIGHT.
I'M NOT SAYING THIS FOR YOU.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY MORE VALUABLE REHEARSAL TIME ON OUR ACCOUNT.

I'M BECOMING FARMER NUMBER FOUR. IF YOU DON'T LEAVE ME IN PEACE, I JUST MAY LOSE MY TEMPER.
DON'T THINK YOU CAN TRIP ME UP BY DISTRACT-ING ME FROM MY TASK.

.....
NOW THEN.


ER...
tap tap

HM?


KREE
WHAT KIND OF AN IDIOT WOULD THROW A LIT CIGARETTE BUTT INTO A FROG MASK!?
I--I THOUGHT IT WAS AN ASHTRAY!!
AH !!
DOES IT LOOK LIKE AN ASHTRAY!?

THIS IS THE LAST STRAW!!
OUT!! OUT!! OUT!!
AH ...
OH, MY!
WAH WAH WAH

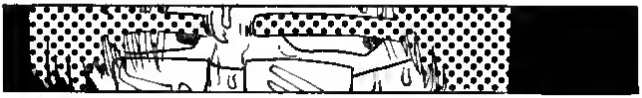
YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY, DO YOU?
LET'S JUST CONSIDER THE FIRE WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, SHALL WE?
THIS IS MY TREAT, MIND YOU.

COME NOW, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO BOOT ME OUT OVER THIS LITTLE ACCIDENT?
THE THEATER MEANS MORE THAN THAT, DOESN'T IT?
ANYWAY, LET'S JUST GO WITH THE DOUBLE-CAST, SHALL WE?

WE ONLY HAVE THREE MORE WEEKS, DAMMIT!
SO, WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PRACTICE FROM NOW ON!?

MY FATHER'S OLD THEATER BUDDIES SHOULD—
NOT TO WORRY, NOT TO WORRY. I HAVE MY CONNEC-TIONS.
BOSH!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
IT'S A BIT FAR, BUT I THINK IT'S MORE THAN BIG ENOUGH.
I'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT IF WE CAN USE IT FIRST, THOUGH



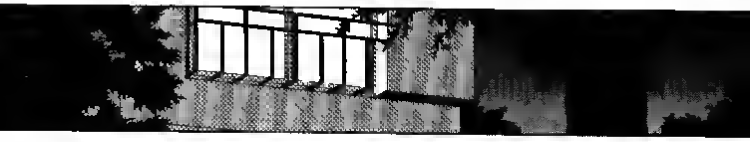
CLATTER
CLATTER

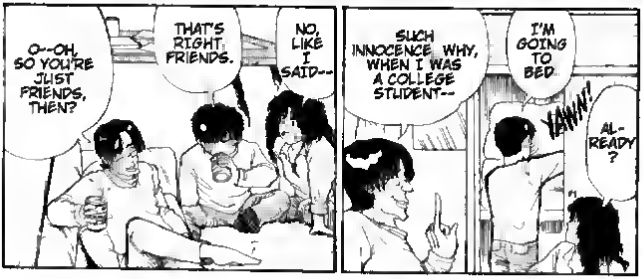
EH?

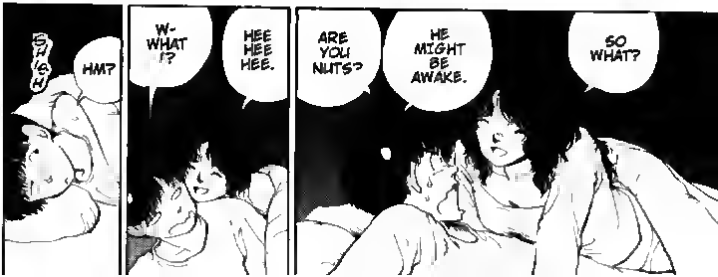
I'D REALLY LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOU
WE'RE BOTH MEN OF THE THEATER WHAT SAY WE TALK UNTIL DAWN?
I MUST BE A MAGNET FOR WEIRDOS

YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY EXPERIENCE AND DEPTH OF CHARACTER THAT MAKE AN ACTOR, ISN'T IT?
YOU SEEM A BIT INNOCENT TO BE AN ACTOR.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO LEARN YOU'RE STILL A VIRGIN.
AH.
WELCOME HOME!
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN.
HM? WHASSAT?
AND YOU'RE DRUNK AGAIN.
OH, I--I'M KARA-WARAI.
Y--YOUR SISTER, PERCHANCE?

I MISSED THE LAST TRAIN.
I'M HIS LOVER!
CUT IT OUT!!

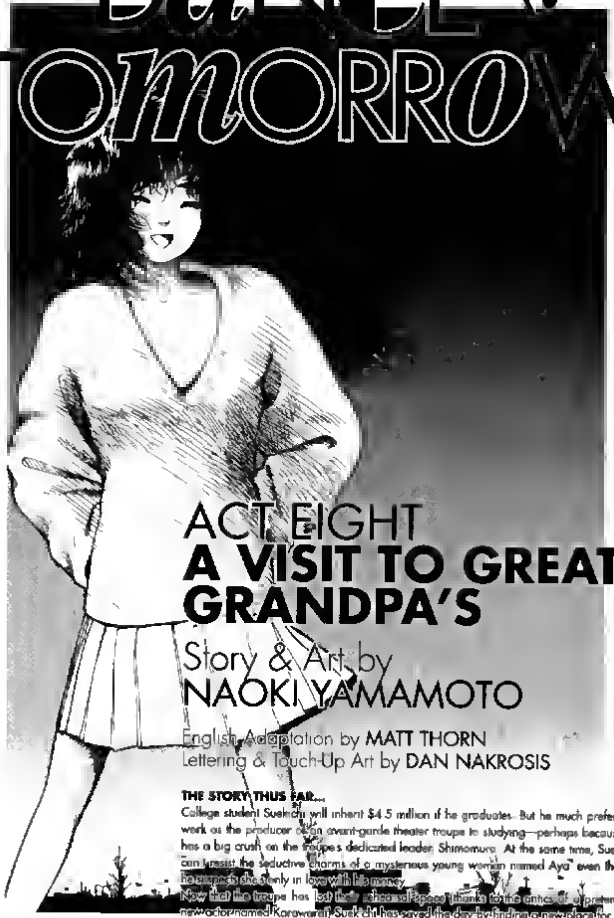



O--OH, SO YOU'RE JUST FRIENDS, THEN?
THAT'S RIGHT, FRIENDS.
NO, LIKE I SAID--
SUCH INNOCENCE. WHY, WHEN I WAS A COLLEGE STUDENT--
I'M GOING TO BED.
YAWN!
AL-READY?


SHH
HM?
W-WHAT!?
HEE HEE HEE.
ARE YOU NUTS?
HE MIGHT BE AWAKE.
SO WHAT?

TO BE CONTINUED

DANCE TILL TOMORROW



ACT EIGHT
A VISIT TO GREAT-GRANDPA'S

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

English Adaptation by MATT THORN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit $4.5 million if he graduates. But he much prefers his work as the producer for an avant-garde theater troupe in studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader, Shimomura. At the same time, Suekichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Aya, even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

Now that the troupe has lost their rehearsal space, thanks to the antics of a pretentious new actor named Karawan, Suekichi has saved the day by finding a new place for them to prepare for their impending performance...

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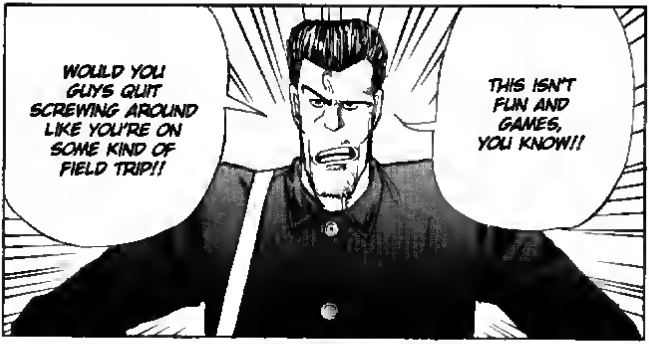
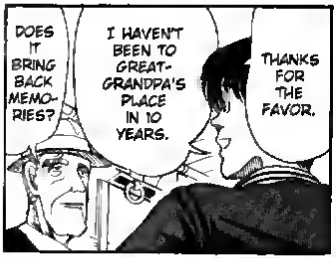
EEEE

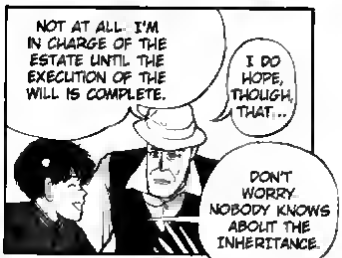

WOULD YOU GUYS QUIT SCREWING AROUND LIKE YOU'RE ON SOME KIND OF FIELD TRIP!!
THIS ISN'T FUN AND GAMES, YOU KNOW!!

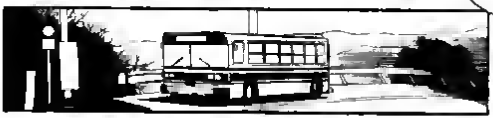
WOW! CHECK OUT IKE ZU'S MOUNTAIN OF CANDY!
HEY, THESE ARE TO REPLACE LOST CALORIES AFTER OUR GRUELING REHEARSAL.
BET HE STOLE THEM FROM THE STORE HE WORKS AT.

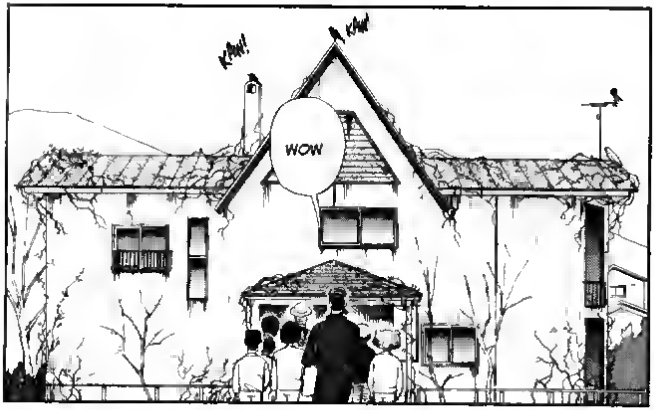
ARE WE THERE YET?
WE TAKE A BUS FROM HERE.

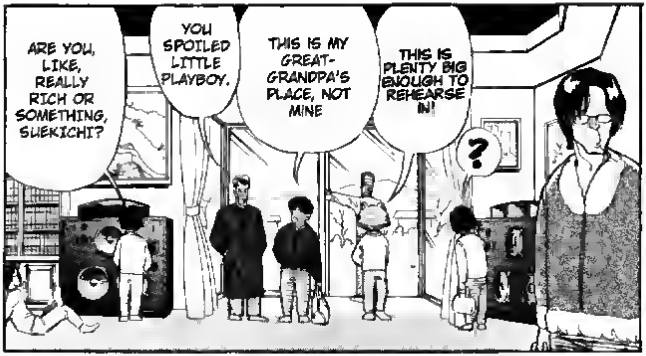
I TOLD YOU, THE PLACE I RECOMMENDED IS MUCH CLOSER
YEAH, RIGHT. BUT THEY CHARGE 10,000 YEN AN HOUR!
THE BUS IS ABOUT TO DEPART.
SOMEONE'S MEETING US HERE, RIGHT?
HE SHOULD BE HERE..
WELCOME
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DRESSED SO.. SO CASUALLY
IT'S THE WEEK-END.
IS IT FAR?
WE'LL ARRIVE IN TWENTY MINUTES.
THIS IS LIKE A TOUR.
I TOLD YOU!
SQUARE HEAD

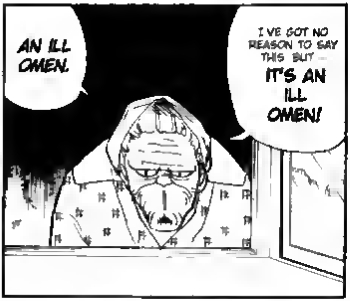

DOES IT BRING BACK MEMO-RIES?
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO GREAT-GRANDPA'S PLACE IN 10 YEARS.
THANKS FOR THE FAVOR.

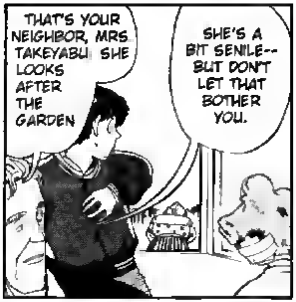

NOT AT ALL. I'M IN CHARGE OF THE ESTATE UNTIL THE EXECUTION OF THE WILL IS COMPLETE.
I DO HOPE, THOUGH, THAT...
DON'T WORRY. NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THE INHERITANCE.




KAW!
KAW!
WOW


ARE YOU, LIKE, REALLY RICH OR SOMETHING, SHEKICHI?
YOU SPOILED LITTLE PLAYBOY.
THIS IS MY GREAT-GRANDPA'S PLACE, NOT MINE
THIS IS PLENTY BIG ENOUGH TO REHEARSE IN!
?


AN ILL OMEN.
I'VE GOT NO REASON TO SAY THIS BUT IT'S AN ILL OMEN!


THAT'S YOUR NEIGHBOR, MRS TAKEYABU. SHE LOOKS AFTER THE GARDEN
SHE'S A BIT SENILE-- BUT DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU.

WE'RE STARTING ALREADY? WE JUST GOT HERE.
I TOLD YOU, MORON, WE'RE NOT HERE TO SCREW AROUND!
WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO WEEKS TILL OPENING NIGHT! TWO WEEKS!

HM ?
I'M NOT GOING TO BE UPSTAGED...
...BY YOU!!
BUT, ALL THAT ASIDE...HOW'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND? I WAS SO EMBARRASSED THE OTHER NIGHT, WHAT WITH YOU TWO ALL OVER EACH OTHER...
ER, UM.
KUN?
.....
WAH!
TWO LIKE
TELE-PHONE
FROM A MISS SHIMOMURA

SUEKICHI ?
YEAH, I JUST GOT HERE.
I WAS JUST MEETING WITH OUR SOUND MAN, MUTO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT. JUST TELL ME WHERE IT IS
ARE YOU SURE? ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE WAITING BY THE EAST EXIT.
I'LL SHOP FOR DINNER ON THE WAY.
THANKS, MR. TACHIMI.
KCHING!
AH!
HM?

HUH?

WE JUST RAN INTO EACH OTHER.
YO!

W--W--WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
YOU SAID YOU WERE SPENDING THE NIGHT AT YOUR GREAT-GRANDPA'S PLACE.
I SAID THAT?
!?

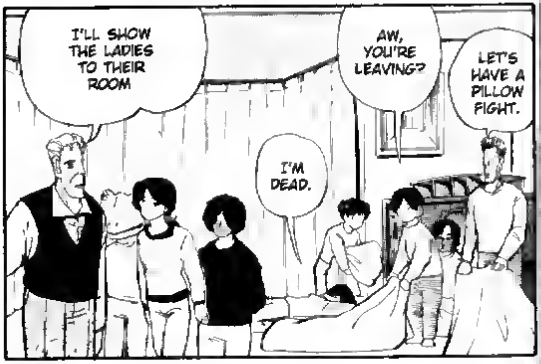
COME ON!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T ENDED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT WOMAN!?

WHO'S THAT, YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
YO!
YO!
HI, EVERY-ONE
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S INAPPROPRIATE TO BRING YOUR LOVER TO PRACTICE?
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU COME HERE FOR!?
WHY SHOULDN'T I ?
IT'S NO PROBLEM, SHE CAN GIVE US FEEDBACK
YEAH, AND I CAN MAKE DINNER, TOO.

WHY DO ACTORS TALK IN SUCH AN EXAGGERATED WAY?
THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT'S DONE.
OH WELL, WHY IS THERE A GIANT FROG IN A PERIOD PIECE?
JUST SHUT UP AND THEY'RE WATCH. TRYING TO CONCENTRATE.
ALL RIGHT, SUEKICHI. SWITCH WITH KARAWARA.
RIGHT
SO WHAT DID YOU THINK? I MADE UP THAT LAST JOKE MYSELF, YOU KNOW.
I WAS TOLD WE HAVE TO BE QUIET.
WHAT DID YOU THINK?
I DON'T GET IT.
YOU WOULDN'T.

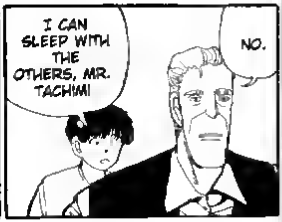
IS THIS YOU, SUEKICHI?
WHERE DID YOU DIG THAT UP?
HEY
HEY!
WHERE'S AYA?
PROBABLY WENT HOME
AT THIS HOUR?
DON'T LOOK AT ME.
I SENT HER HOME.

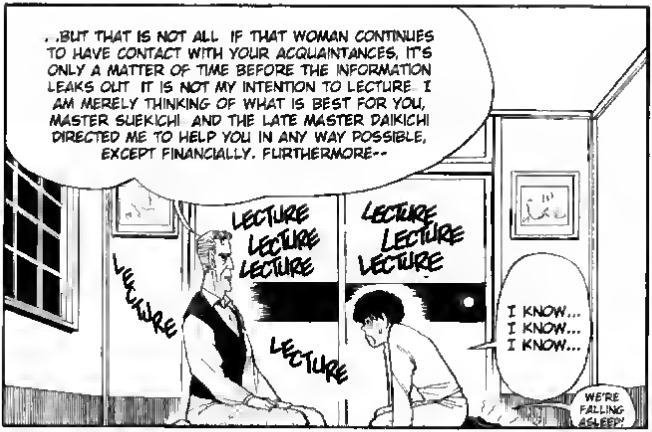
WHAT, NO PARTY?
YOU STILL HAVE ENERGY TO PARTY?
FULL REHEARSAL AT NINE THIRTY, FOLKS.


I'LL SHOW THE LADIES TO THEIR ROOM
AW, YOU'RE LEAVING?
LET'S HAVE A PILLOW FIGHT.
I'M DEAD.

WE NEED TO DISCUSS ,
...VARIOUS MATTERS

MASTER SUEKICHI SHALL SLEEP IN THIS ROOM.
HUH?
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING HERE?

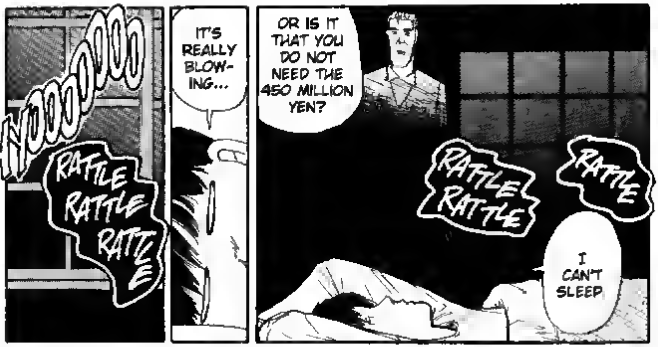

I CAN SLEEP WITH THE OTHERS, MR. TACHIMI
NO.


...BUT THAT IS NOT ALL. IF THAT WOMAN CONTINUES TO HAVE CONTACT WITH YOUR ACQUAINTANCES, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE INFORMATION LEAKS OUT. IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO LECTURE. I AM MERELY THINKING OF WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU. MASTER SUEKICHI AND THE LATE MASTER DAIKICHI DIRECTED ME TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE, EXCEPT FINANCIALLY. FURTHERMORE--
LECTURE
LECTURE
LECTURE
LECTURE
LECTURE
LECTURE
LECTURE
I KNOW... I KNOW... I KNOW...
WE'RE FALLING ASLEEP!

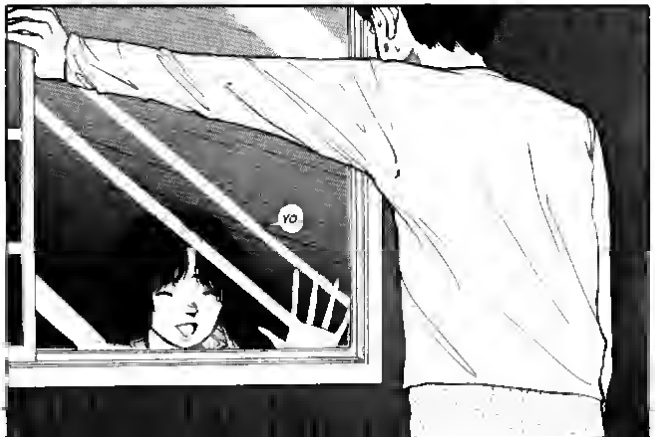
OR IS IT THAT YOU DON'T NEED THE 450 MILLION YEN?
IN THAT CASE, THE WILL INSTRUCTS ME TO DONATE THE ENTIRE SUM TO THE KANGAROO FUND.
I NEED IT! I DO NEED IT! I VERY MUCH DO NEED IT!

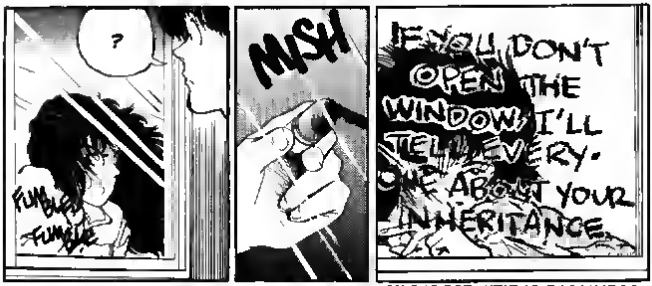
HOOOO

RATTLE RATTLE

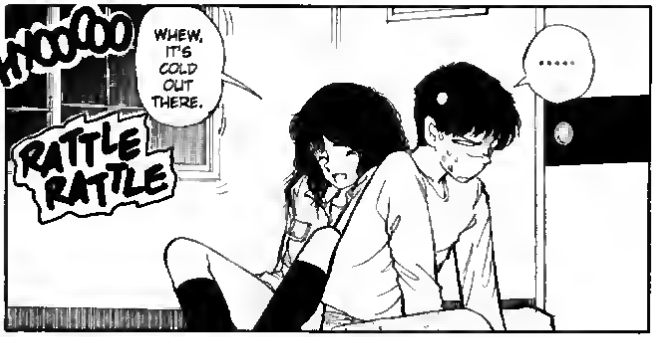

HYOOOOO
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
IT'S REALLY BLOWING...
OR IS IT THAT YOU DO NOT NEED THE 450 MILLION YEN?
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE
I CAN'T SLEEP

WHAT A RACKET.
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE


YO



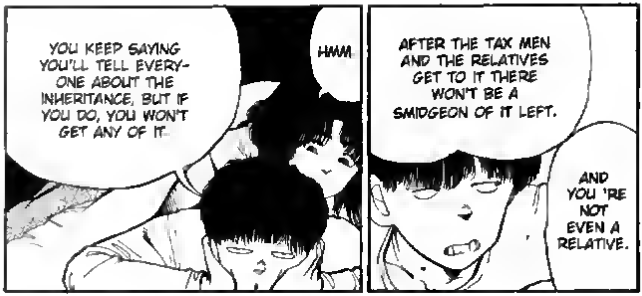
AYA HAS A TALENT FOR WRITING BACKWARDS.

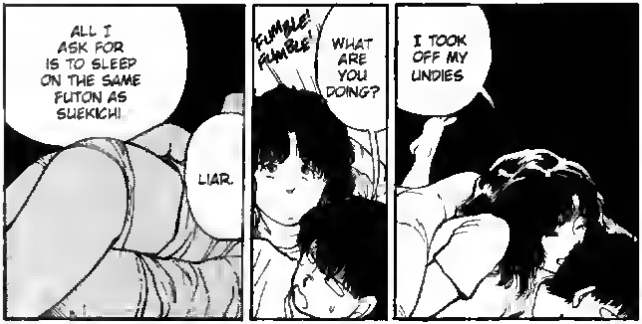


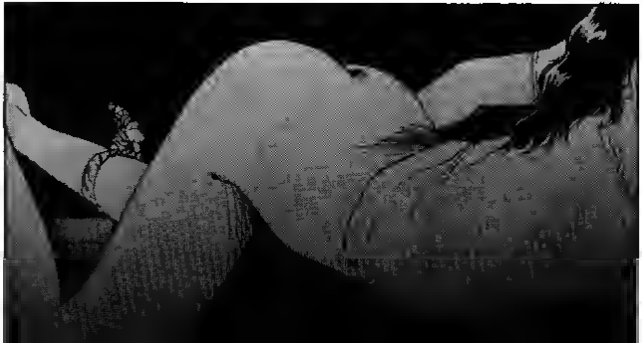
DANCE TILL
TOMORROW
ACT NINE
HOT AND
COLD NIGHTS

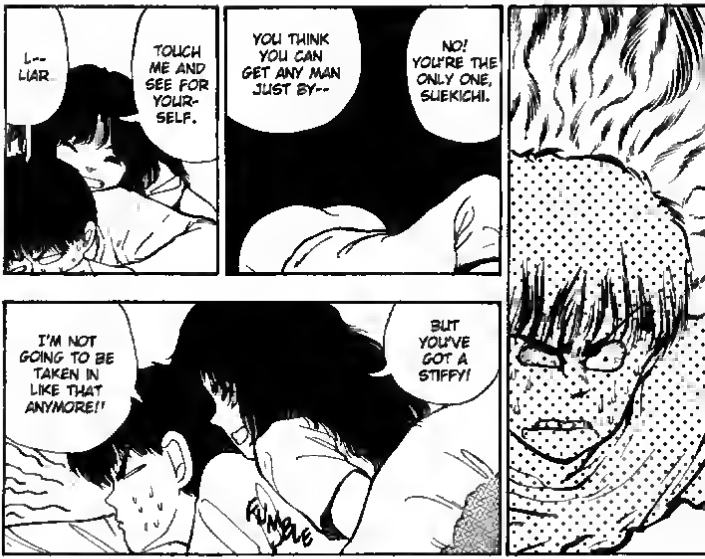
KAW!
KAW!
HOOOOOOOO
NNNN
HH
HH
IF YOU DON'T
OPEN THE
WINDOW, I'LL
TELL EVERY-
ONE ABOUT YOUR
INHERITANCE
DIDN'T MR.
TACHIMI
TELL YOU TO
GO HOME?
I DID
GO HOME
BUT I
CAME
BACK

IT'S COLD. LET'S GET UNDER THE COVERS.
SHIVER
FEEL FREE.
YOU TOO!
NO THANK YOU.
IF YOU DON'T GET IN, I'LL SCREAM...
...SUEKICHI HAS A 500 MILLION YEN INHERITANCE!!
W--WHY, YOU LITTLE...!!
HYOOOOOOOOOOOOO
NICE AND WARM, ISN'T IT?
.....


YOU KEEP SAYING YOU'LL TELL EVERY-ONE ABOUT THE INHERITANCE, BUT IF YOU DO, YOU WON'T GET ANY OF IT.
HMM.
AFTER THE TAX MEN AND THE RELATIVES GET TO IT THERE WON'T BE A SMIDGEON OF IT LEFT.
AND YOU 'RE NOT EVEN A RELATIVE.


ALL I ASK FOR IS TO SLEEP ON THE SAME FUTON AS SUEKICHI
LIAR.
FUMBLE FUMBLE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I TOOK OFF MY UNDIES

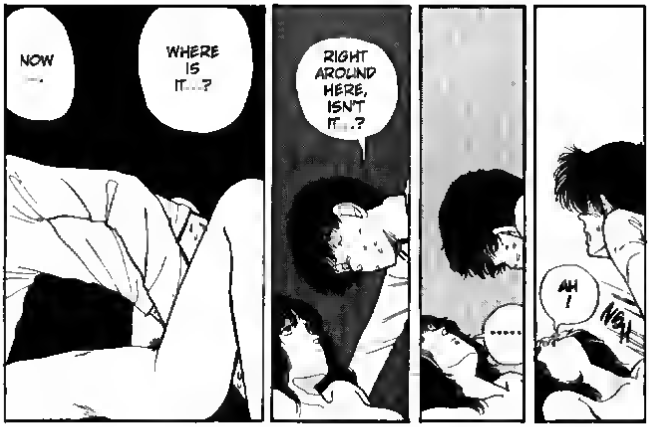



L--
LIAR.
TOUCH ME AND SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET ANY MAN JUST BY--
NO! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE, SUEKICHI.
I'M NOT GOING TO BE TAKEN IN LIKE THAT ANYMORE!!
BUT YOU'VE GOT A STIFFY!
RUMBLE

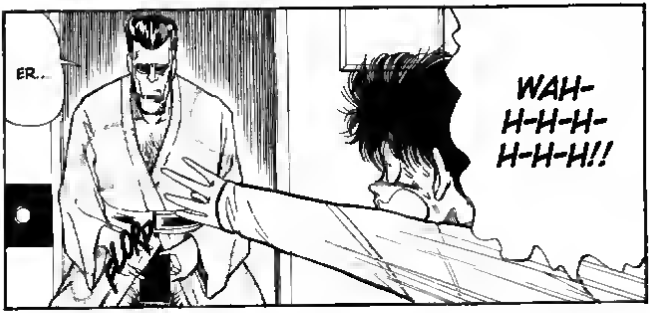
LISTEN, YOU.
A MAN CAN TURN INTO A BEAST AT ANY TIME, YOU KNOW!
SO... TURN INTO A BEAST, ALREADY.
FWUMP

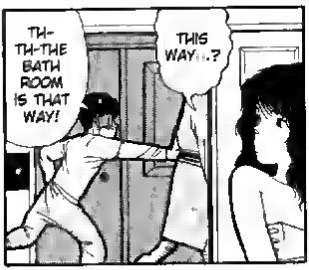
KISS
MUSH
YOU'RE THE ONE--!!
WHAT, YOU WANT TO HAVE SEX?
I--IT'S JUST THE WIND.
DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
SO WE'LL BE QUIET.
BUT EVERYONE'S IN THE NEXT ROOM

SEX, SEX, SEX. I WONDER IF ALL MEN ARE LIKE THIS
YOU'RE WET.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANNOUNCE IT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME ON TO ME!


NOW ...
WHERE IS IT...?
RIGHT AROUND HERE, ISN'T IT...?
.....
AH!
NGH

DOES IT FEEL GOOD?
HOW ABOUT YOU?
YEAH. IT FEELS REALLY GOOD.
I'M SURE I HEAR SOME-THING.
I-IT'S JUST THE WIND.
HUH ?
AHA!


ER...
PUPU
WAH-H-H-H-H-H-H!!

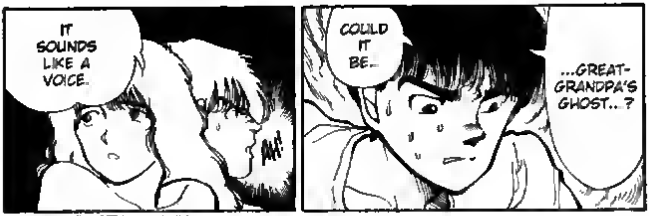

TH-TH-THE BATH ROOM IS THAT WAY!
THIS WAY...?

SHEESH. WALKING IN HIS SLEEP. THAT WAS SOMETHING I COULD HAVE LIVED WITHOUT SEEING
TTTTP FLUSH!!

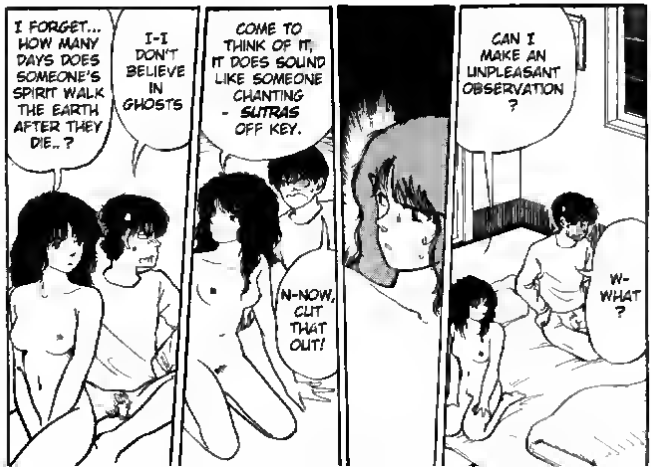
HM ?

NNNNN

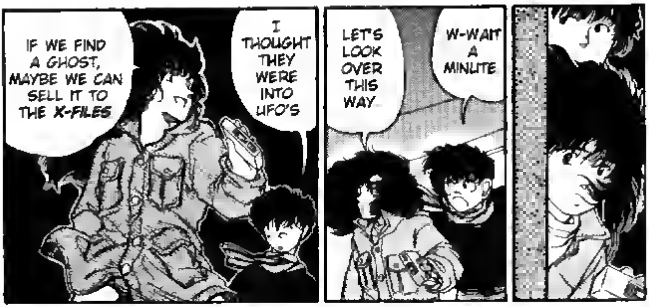
HM...? WHASSUP ?
L-LET'S FINISH.
BUT.. I'M SLEEPY.
LATER ..
UNH ...
AH! FOR CRYING OUT...
I STILL HEAR SOME-THING.
I-IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION!
SHK SHK
WOULD YOU PLEASE CON-CENTRATE?
SHK
BUT I REALLY DO!
LISTEN !
I'M TELLING YOU--
SHK SHK



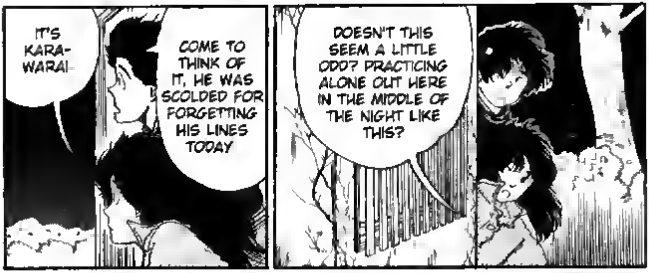
SHE IS STILL STRADDLING HIM


I FORGET... HOW MANY DAYS DOES SOMEONE'S SPIRIT WALK THE EARTH AFTER THEY DIE..?
I-I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT DOES SOUND LIKE SOMEONE CHANTING - SUTRAS OFF KEY.
N-NOW, CUT THAT OUT!
CAN I MAKE AN UNPLEASANT OBSERVATION ?
W-WHAT ?

THE PILLOW IS FACING NORTH.
WAH-H-H!! WAH-H-H!! WAH-H-H!!
AYA.
W-WHAT ?
SO IF WE JUST KEEP GOING---
BUT I HAVE NEVER, EVER HEARD OF A GHOST APPEARING IN THE MIDDLE OF SEX!
FWAP!
AROUND THE WORLD AND THROUGH THE AGES, THERE ARE STORIES OF GHOSTS
I'VE BEEN FOND OF SUCH TALES SINCE I WAS YOUNG, AND I'VE READ A LOT OF THEM.
HOOOOOO
WHY DO I HAVE TO COME ALONG?
YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO GO ALONE, DO YOU?


IF WE FIND A GHOST, MAYBE WE CAN SELL IT TO THE X-FILES
I THOUGHT THEY WERE INTO UFO'S
LET'S LOOK OVER THIS WAY
W-WAIT A MINUTE

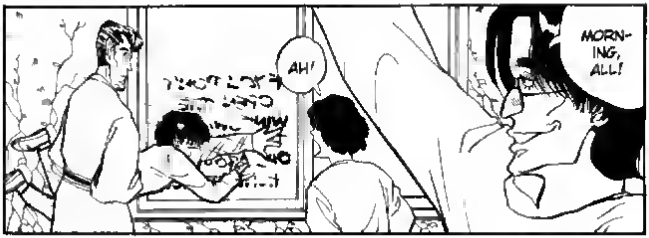
mumble mumble


IT'S KARA-WARA!
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WAS SCOLDED FOR FORGETTING HIS LINES TODAY
DOESN'T THIS SEEM A LITTLE ODD? PRACTICING ALONE OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS?

WHO SAID IT WAS A GHOST?
YOU DID.
HE'S REALLY INTO IT.
IT'S MORNING !!!
AND A WONDERFUL MORNING IT IS LET'S WARM UP OUTSIDE.
YEAH
YAWN

YOU'RE LATE, SUEKICHI.
I DIDN'T SLEEP VERY WELL.
NOW WHERE DID KARAWARA GO?
GOOD MORNING! TIME ONCE AGAIN FOR OUR RADIO WORK-OUT! ALL RIGHT, LISTENERS, TAKE YOUR POSITIONS!

HM?
IT'S SMUDGED.
CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT?
IT'S BACK-WARDS "IF YOU DON'T OPEN--"



TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT TEN
JUST BEFORE OPENING NIGHT

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by LILLIAN OLSEN
English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Editing by JASON THOMPSON
Lettering & Touch Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR

College student Suekichi will inherit $4.5 million if he graduates—but he much prefers his work at the troupe's on avant garde) theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's violinist-leader Shimomura. At the same time, Suekichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Ayo—even though he suspects she only is in love with his money.

Suekichi's troupe has just returned from a rehearsal/retreat at his parent grandfather's estate, where Ayo blackmailed him into a partnership that began between the sheets. But now it's time to prepare for the impending opening night in earnest. Or is it?

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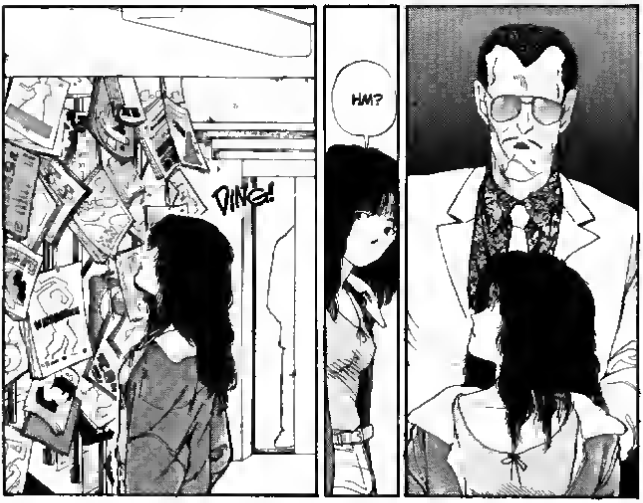
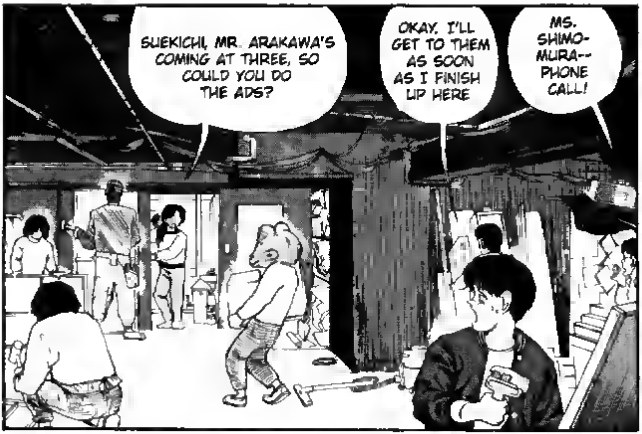
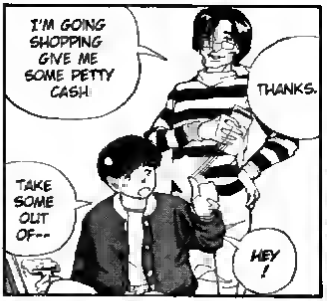

DING!
HM?

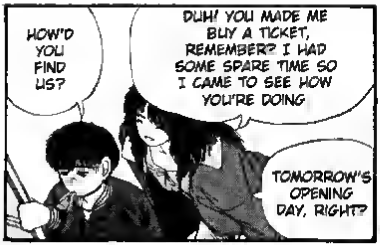
OH, MR IKEZU! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU THIS PLACE IS LIKE A MAZE!
WOW, HOW'D YOU MAKE THAT SCAR?
TALK ABOUT ASSUMING THE ROLE--YOU'RE LIKE A TOTAL YAKUZA
GREAT MAKEUP JOB!
PINCH
TUGG
HEY, WHERE IS EVERY-BODY? THIS WAY?


SUEKICHI, MR. ARAKAWA'S COMING AT THREE, SO COULD YOU DO THE ADS?
OKAY. I'LL GET TO THEM AS SOON AS I FINISH UP HERE
MS. SHIMO-MURA-- PHONE CALL!


I'M GOING SHOPPING GIVE ME SOME PETTY CASH
THANKS.
TAKE SOME OUT OF--
HEY!

YO.

SPLAT

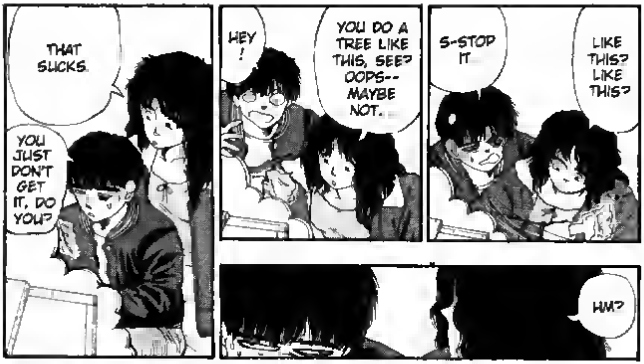

HOW'D YOU FIND US?
DUH! YOU MADE ME BUY A TICKET, REMEMBER? I HAD SOME SPARE TIME SO I CAME TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING
TOMORROW'S OPENING DAY, RIGHT?

YEAH...
AND WE'RE REALLY BUSY, SO...
TOUCH

SO YOU'RE A STAGEHAND, TOO?
NO, BUT EVERY-ONE NEEDS TO PITCH--

I'M BORED! LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
GLOM!
SQUISH

OPENING DAY'S TOMORROW AND WE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT TWO NIGHTS IN A ROW SETTING UP AND REHEARSING AND WHAT-NOT AND WE'RE REALLY BUSY AND REALLY TIRED SO I DON'T HAVE THE TIME, ENERGY, STRENGTH, OR DESIRE TO DEAL WITH YOU, OKAY!?


THAT SUCKS.
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
HEY!
YOU DO A TREE LIKE THIS, SEE? OOPS-- MAYBE NOT.
S-STOP IT
LIKE THIS? LIKE THIS?
HM?

UM, WE'RE KIND OF BUSY, SO...
BUT...

THAT GOES OVER HERE.
NGH!
SUEKICHI!
THIS IS THE LAST STRAW.

HOW DO I LOOK?
M-MY COSTUME!
KLNK
GUESS WHAT? I USED TO BE A BALLERINA. ONE DAY I SPRAINED MY ANKLE AND HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. EVER SINCE, WHENEVER I SEE A TUTU, MY OLD SELF COMES OUT TO HAUNT ME. SO DANCE... DANCE...WITH ME...
INTER SID GAME CENTER

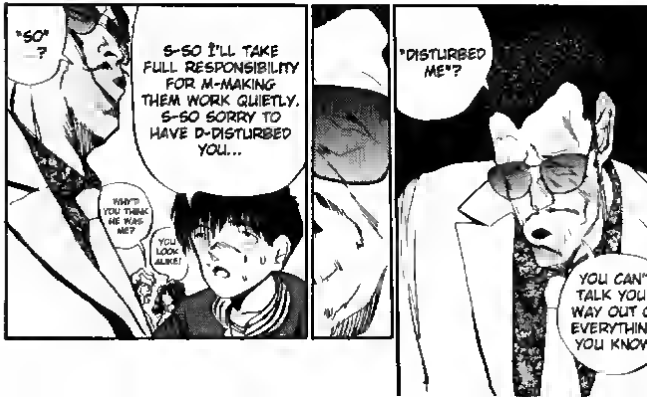
PING!
BREEP!
PINGPING!
PSHU!
BREEP!
HE DIDN'T HAFTA BOP ME ONE.
BREEP!
PSHU!
PING!
BREEP!
PISHU!
PING!
YABLAM!

WHAT A COIN-CIDENCE
PIKON
PISHU!
ping
PING
Ping
SHOULD YOU BE HERE WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS WORKING?
I JUST GOT BACK FROM SHOPPING.
OH--NOT LIKE THAT!
PING!!
BREEP!
PIKON
SEE? HIT THE WALL THREE TIMES AND DON'T SHOOT UNTIL YOU GET TO THE TOWER!
WHOOPS! THAT'S ANNOYING.
SEE? KEEP WATCHING AND.
HERE, SEE? HERE!
KABLAM!
BLAM!
BL

HEY, WAIT UP!
HM ?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH NOISE YOU'RE MAKING HAMMERING FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT?
WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?
TH-THE TROUPE LEADER IS OUT AT A MEETING
THE THEATER MANAGER, TOO..

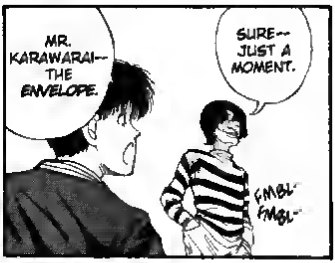
DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH HIS KIND, AYA.
WHY?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY EYES?
WANT TO VISIT MY OFFICE?
OH, NOTHING.

MR. IKEZU, WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING WITH SUEKICHI?
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS.
ME
HUH?
UM, PRODUCTION IS REALLY RUNNING BEHIND AND TOMORROW IS OPENING DAY, SO...


"SO"...?
S-SO I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR M-MAKING THEM WORK QUIETLY. S-SO SORRY TO HAVE D-DISTURBED YOU...
WHY'D YOU THINK HE WAS ME?
YOU LOOK ALIKE!
"DISTURBED ME"?
YOU CAN'T TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW

THERE'S A YAKUZA OFFICE RIGHT ABOVE THE THEATER. THEY OFTEN PICK FIGHTS ABOUT THE NOISE LEVEL.
AN UN-PLEASANT BUNCH.
WHERE'D YOU DIS-APPEAR TO?

BAMM! BAMM! BAMM!
HEY, I NEED MORE PLYWOOD OVER HERE.
HOLD ON.


MR. KARAWARAI-- THE ENVELOPE.
SURE-- JUST A MOMENT.
FMBL FMBL

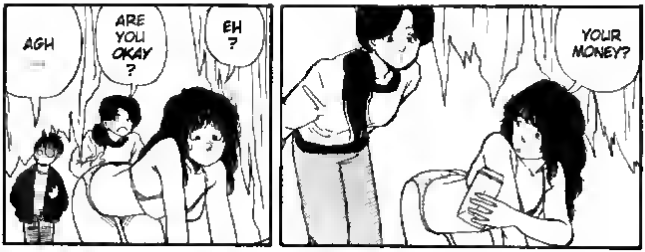
YOU DON'T HAVE IT!?
WHAT!? THE TROUPE'S ENTIRE FUNDS WERE IN THERE!
UM ...
OH, I KNOW...

..DIDN'T I ALREADY GIVE IT BACK TO YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DIDN'T LOSE IT, DID YOU?
WHAT AN ACCUSATION! WHY DID YOU HAND IT OVER IF IT WAS SO IMPORTANT, ANYWAY?
I WAS ABOUT TO TELL YOU TO TAKE WHAT YOU NEEDED AND LEAVE THE REST, WHEN YOU TOOK OFF!
EXCUSES, EXCUSES
I OUGHTTA

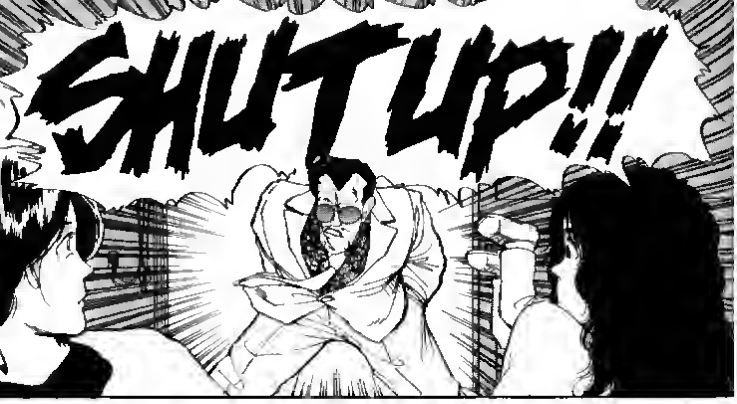
AH, I HAVE IT!
YOU'RE THE ONE!
MOI ?

I HAD THE ENVELOPE WHEN I WENT SHOPPING... NOW IT'S GONE... I WAS ALONE WITH YOU AT THE ARCADE...
THUS, THE ONLY POSSIBILITY IS THAT YOU TOOK IT.
AN ELEMENTARY DEDUCTION!
I'M GONNA KILL HIM..
JUST IGNORE HIM!
I WAS MERELY FOLLOWING A TRAIN OF THOUGHT TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION.
YOUR DEFENSIVENESS LOOKS SUSPICIOUS
FINE!

WHY DON'T YOU FIND WHERE I HID IT?!
WOO! WOO!
CLIP
HMM... WHAT AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT...
STOP! IT'S NO USE TRYING TO HIDE YOUR GUILT WITH EXHIBITIONIST MANEUVERS!
Tweet-Tweeee
CEASE AND DESIST!
WHUMP!
ACK!
WHOA-A-A..
EH?
RRiiPP
TEARR


AGH
ARE YOU OKAY?
EH?
YOUR MONEY?

NOW I SEE! WHEN THE YAKUZA WAS HERE AND I STEPPED BEHIND THE CURTAINS, THE ENVELOPE MUST HAVE FALLEN OUT OF MY BACK POCKET!
EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW, RIGHT? YOU FOUND THE MONEY, DIDN'T YOU?!
CASE CLOSED.
IT'S NOT OKAY! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH THIS CURTAIN COST!?
FINE! YOU WANT ME TO PAY FOR IT? WANT ME TO SELL YOUR STUPID TICKETS?!


SHUT UP!!!

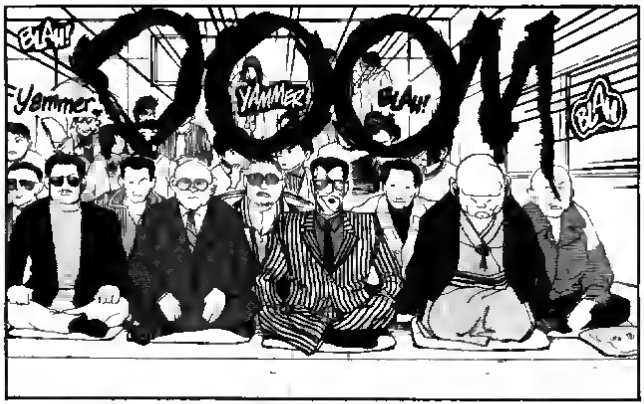
YOU ARE REALLY TRYING MY PATIENCE. DO YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE?
WHY DON'T YOU ALL COME VISIT MY OFFICE.
WHY ME?

BUY SOME TICKETS, MISTER ?

AYA !
STMP STMP

WHY SHOULD I BUY THEM?
AGH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.. BUT I'M GIVING YOU AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE. THE PLAY'S REALLY FUNNY, AND YOU CAN HAVE THESE FOR HALF PRICE!

OH! SO YOU'RE BUYING SOME?
IT BETTER BE GOOD
HEY .. DON'T BLAME ME!
I'VE COME DOWN HERE MANY TIMES
AYA ...
BUT NO ONE HAS EVER OFFERED ME TICKETS BEFORE !!
UMM .. ABOUT TWENTY ?
HOW MANY DO YOU WANT TO SELL ME?
THANKS.
I'LL ATTEND TOMORROW'S PERFORMANCE, ACCOMPANIED BY TEN COLLEAGUES WITH A TASTE FOR COMEDY.
YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DISAPPOINT ME?
DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL BE ROLLING IN THE AISLES
H-HEY !
UNBELIEVABLE..
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
GOOD THING HE WAS A REASONABLE GANGSTER!
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU . ?



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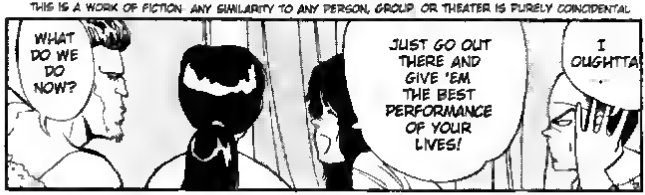
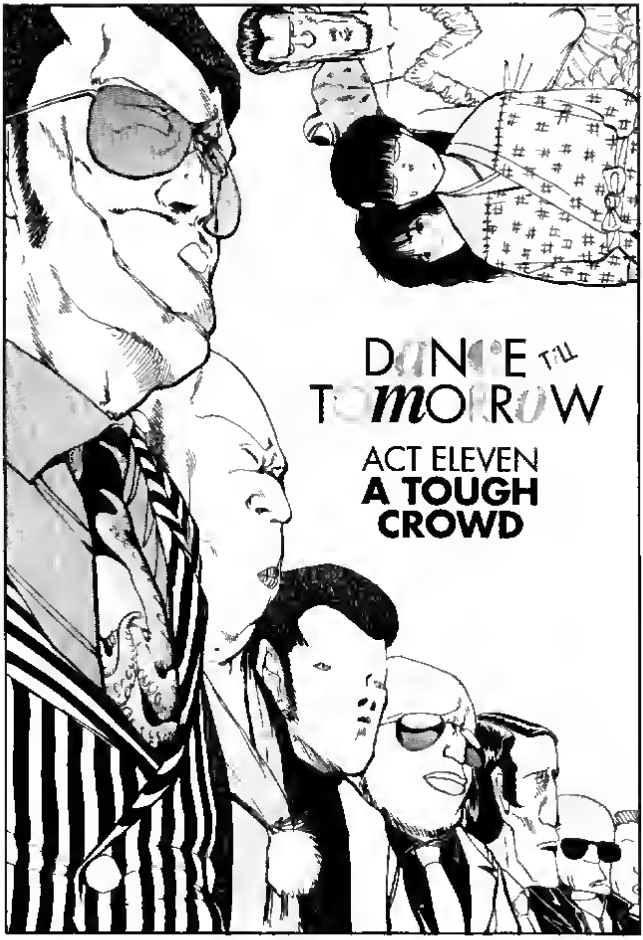



DANCE TILL TOMORROW
ACT ELEVEN
A TOUGH CROWD

IT MIGHT GET CROWDED, SO PLEASE FILL UP THE SEATS FROM THE FRONT
PLEASE MOVE TO THE FRONT.
DOOM

PLEASE FILL UP THE SEATS FROM .

GLARE

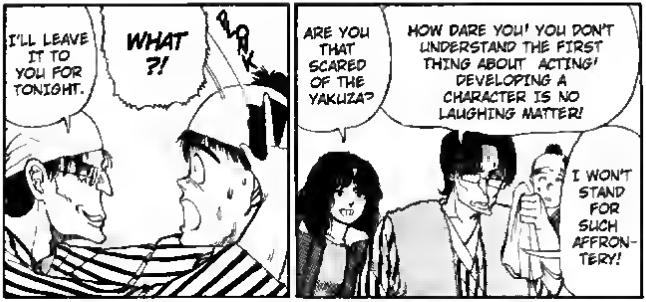
?URK!!

THE MAN IS ASKING YOU TO MOVE UP
SO GET UP AND MOVE ALREADY

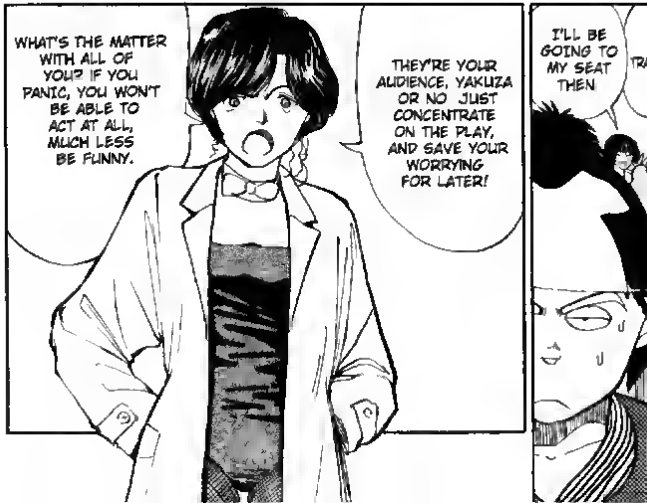
PLEASE ..
TO THE FRONT ..
SHUFFLE! SHUFFLE!

HOW'S IT LOOK ?
MORE THAN HALF FULL PRETTY GOOD FOR OPENING NIGHT.
BUT ...
THOSE YAKUZA, HUH ?

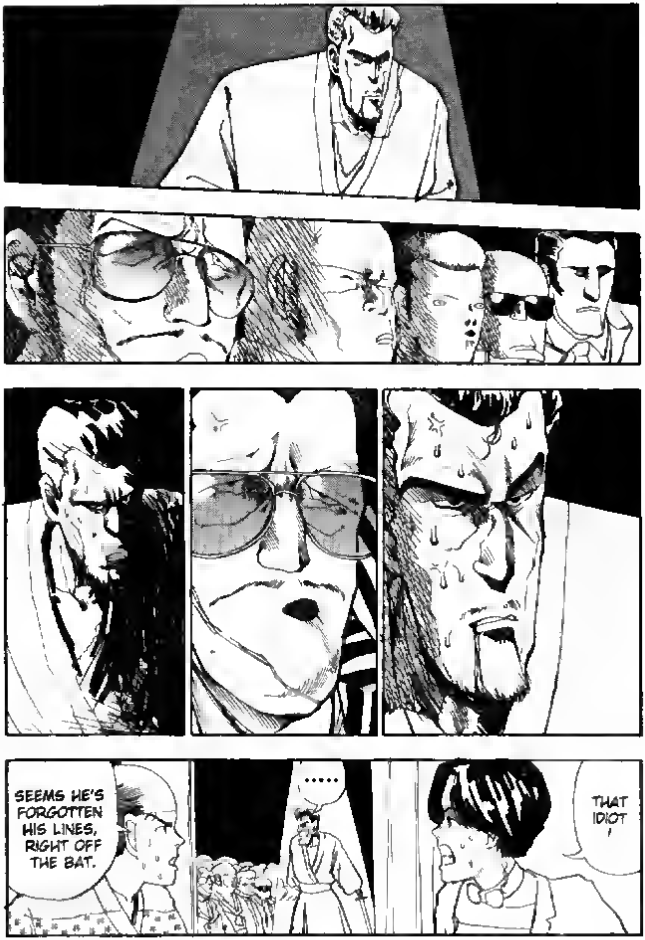
I'LL ATTEND TOMORROW'S PERFORMANCE, ACCOMPANIED BY TEN COLLEAGUES...
YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DISAPPOINT ME?
NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL DO IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT!
YOU MEAN.. PAY-BACK TIME?
THEY WON'T CUT OFF OUR PINKIES, WILL THEY?
THAT'S NOTHING! THEY COULD BURY YOU IN CONCRETE, TOSS YOU INTO TOKYO BAY, AND SELL THE WOMEN TO HONG KONG...!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! WHAT A RIDICULOUS PROMISE TO MAKE...
MY ULCER'S ACTING UP.
JUST DO A LOT OF SLAPSTICK AND GET SOME EASY LAUGHS.
I OUGHTTA...
SUE-KICHI!
OH, MR. KARAWARAI, IT'S YOUR TURN TODAY! GOOD LUCK! TRY TO MAKE YAKUZA-FRIENDLY JOKES...
YOU KNOW, I WAS JUST THINKING... I DON'T THINK I CAN GO ON UNTIL I'VE FULLY PREPARED MY CHARACTER
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?


I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU FOR TONIGHT.
WHAT?!
ARE YOU THAT SCARED OF THE YAKUZA?
HOW DARE YOU! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FIRST THING ABOUT ACTING! DEVELOPING A CHARACTER IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!
I WON'T STAND FOR SUCH AFFRONTERY!

SO, ANYWAY...
HMMM.
B-BUT
I JUST KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER THE THEATER ON SOME PRETEXT OR ANOTHER!
MAYBE WE SHOULD WARN THE MANAGEMENT.

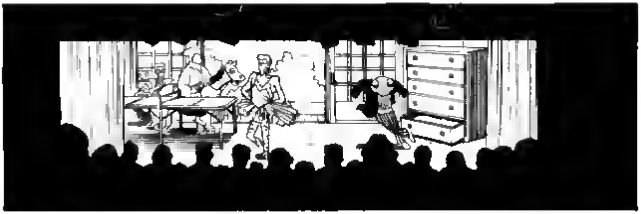

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ALL OF YOU? IF YOU PANIC, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ACT AT ALL, MUCH LESS BE FUNNY.
THEY'RE YOUR AUDIENCE, YAKUZA OR NO! JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE PLAY, AND SAVE YOUR WORRYING FOR LATER!
I'LL BE GOING TO MY SEAT THEN.
TRAITOR!

EXCUSE ME... SORRY ...
Fash!
Hmm...


SEEMS HE'S FORGOTTEN HIS LINES, RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
.....
THAT IDIOT!

WAK!
I WAS GETTING THE TIMING RIGHT
Y-YOU IDIOT, I DIDN'T FORGET!
THEN GET IT ALREADY.
HOW COULD YOU FORGET YOUR LINES ALREADY!?
PATHETIC..
HA HA HA HAHA
AT LEAST THEY'RE LAUGHING..

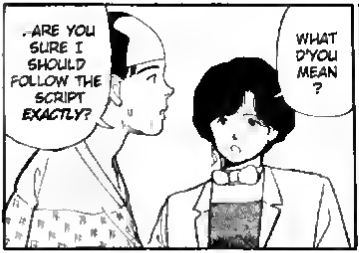
DIE, KNAVE !!
HMPH
IN THAT CASE
OH !
OOPS
B-BEG YOUR PARDON
slink slink
THRUST FROM YOUR HIPS.
URK
YOU CAN'T KILL A GUY LIKE THAT
S-SORRY



HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

UM, IN THE N-NEXT SCENE...
OH, YOU'RE ON IN A MINUTE. RELAX.

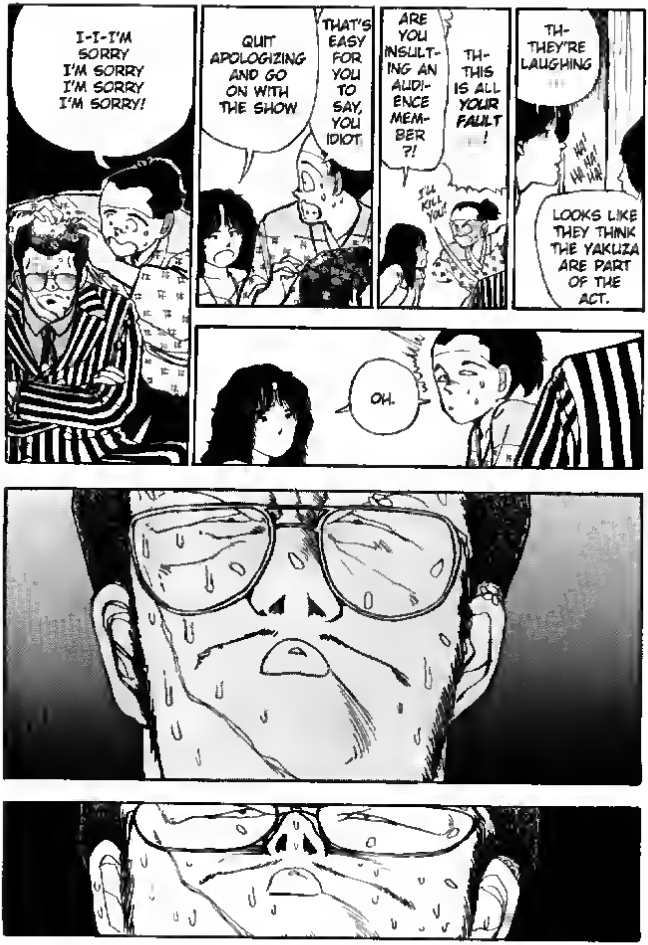
UM...


WHAT D'YOU MEAN?
...ARE YOU SURE I SHOULD FOLLOW THE SCRIPT EXACTLY?

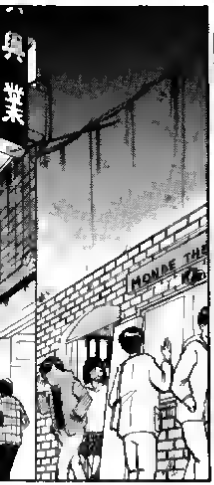
B-BUT...
NO BUTS-- JUST DO IT!
JUST LIKE WE REHEAR-SED.

UM...
H-HELLO
KRZAK
THUD
HE DID A GREAT AD-LIB RIGHT OFF.
HE JUST TRIP-PED
HA HA HA
UMM
URK

SUEKICHI, YOUR LINES!
OH ...
AH... YA...
...YAKUZA...
...ARE HUMAN GARBAGE!
YAYA YAYA YAYA...
POOP
EEP ..
PLOP PLOP


I-I-I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!
QUIT APOLOGIZING AND GO ON WITH THE SHOW
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, YOU IDIOT
ARE YOU INSULTING AN AUDIENCE MEMBER?!
TH-THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
I'LL KILL YOU!
TH-THEY'RE LAUGHING
HA! HA! HA! HA!
LOOKS LIKE THEY THINK THE YAKUZA ARE PART OF THE ACT.
OH.

BOSS!!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興業

WHY ARE WE ACTING LIKE FUGITIVES..?
DO YOU WANT TO SWIM WITH THE FISHES?
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THROUGH THE NEXT FOUR PERFORM-ANCES?
OUCH!
SLIDE
WHAMP!
HM!

TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT TWELVE SHOWER SCENE

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by LILLIAN OLSEN
English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suskichi will inherit $4.5 million if he graduates. But he much prefers his work as the producer of an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader Ms. Shimamura. At the same time Suskichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Aya, even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

The theater company has just survived their opening night performance for an audience of ruthless yakuza gangsters not renowned for their sense of humor.

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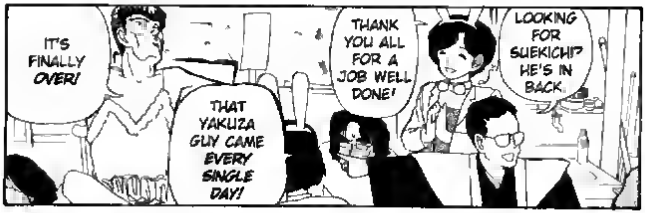
FINAL PERFORMANCE

THANKS FOR COMING!!
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP

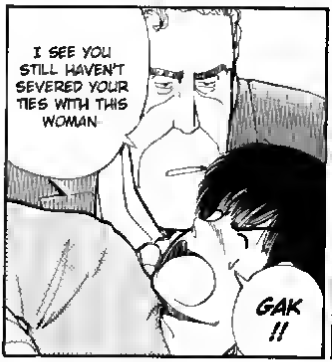

IT'S FINALLY OVER!
THAT YAKUZA GUY CAME EVERY SINGLE DAY!
THANK YOU ALL FOR A JOB WELL DONE!
LOOKING FOR SUEKICHI? HE'S IN BACK.

tap tap tap

tap tap

DAMN! THEY STILL DON'T ADD UP!
tap tap

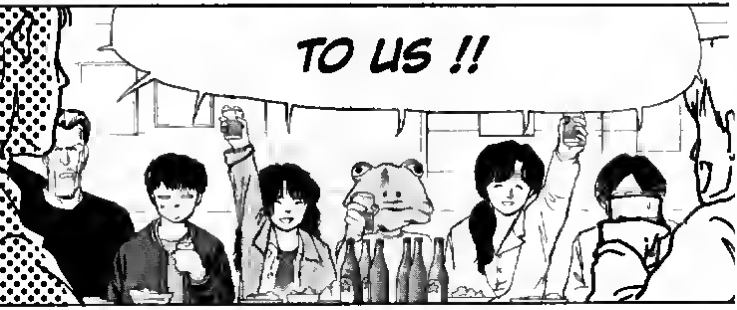
YOU LOOK TERRIBLE WHATCHA CALCU-LATING?
THE REAL WORK STARTS AFTER THE PLAY IS OVER, AND I'M UP TO MY EARS IN IT.
I BROUGHT A VISITOR.

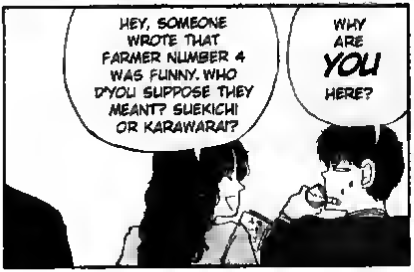

I SEE YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEVERED YOUR TIES WITH THIS WOMAN.
GAK !!

F-FUNNY, ISN'T IT? THE PLAY, I MEAN ..
WELL, YES, THE PLAY WAS RATHER ENTERTAINING BUT PERSONALLY, I PREFER LIGHTER FARE, LIKE COMEDIES OR ROMANCES ..
IT WAS A ROMANTIC COMEDY .

THE CAST PARTY'S ABOUT TO START!
J-JUST ONE MORE MINUTE..

ビール

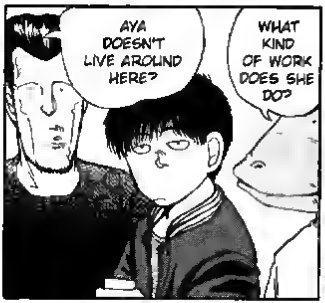

TO US !!


HEY, SOMEONE WROTE THAT FARMER NUMBER 4 WAS FUNNY. WHO D'YOU SUPPOSE THEY MEANT? SUEKICHI OR KARAWARA!?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DON'T BE A PARTY POOPER ...
DRINK UP, DRINK UP!
ACT-UALLY ...

I BETTER GET GOING I HAVE TO WORK EARLY TOMORROW MORNING..
.. AND I DON'T WANT TO MISS MY TRAIN.

WHAT? YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY ?
GREAT JOB, GUYS!

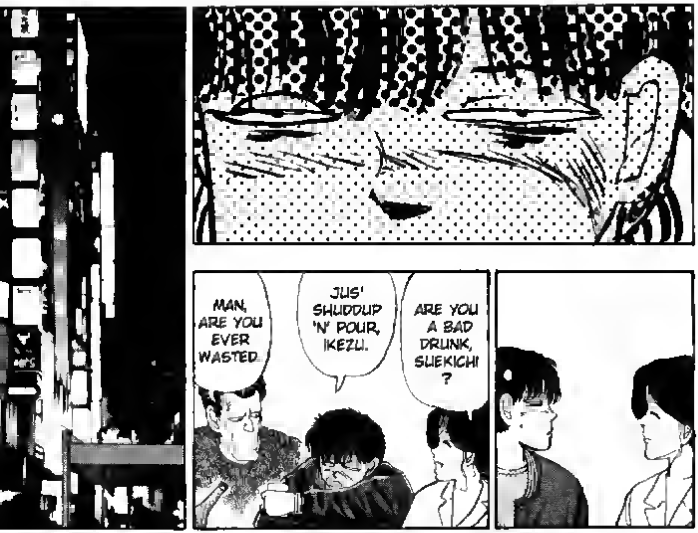

AYA DOESN'T LIVE AROUND HERE?
WHAT KIND OF WORK DOES SHE DO?

WHO KNOWS. WHO CARES

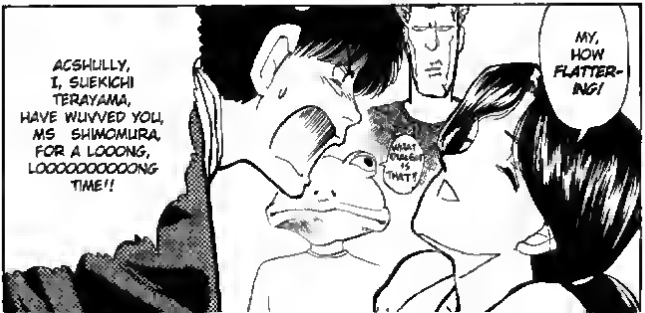
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S JOB IS?
SHE'S NOT MY GIRL-FRIEND.

TO HAVE TO LEAVE THIS EARLY, SHE MUST LIVE PRETTY FAR AWAY...
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES!

SHEESH TOGETHER ALL THE TIME BUT YOU DON'T KNOW SQUAT ABOUT HER, DO YOU? WELL, WHATEVER...
DRINK UP! DRINK UP!


MAN, ARE YOU EVER WASTED.
JUS' SHUDDUP 'N' POUR, IKEZU.
ARE YOU A BAD DRUNK, SUEKICHI ?

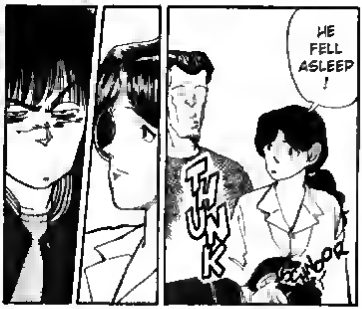
MS SHIMO-MURA !!
YES ?


ACSHULLY, I, SUEKICHI TERAYAMA, HAVE WUVVED YOU, MS SHIMOMURA, FOR A LOOONG, LOOOOOOOOOONG TIME!!
WHAT KNAUGHT IS THAT?
MY, HOW FLATTER-ING!

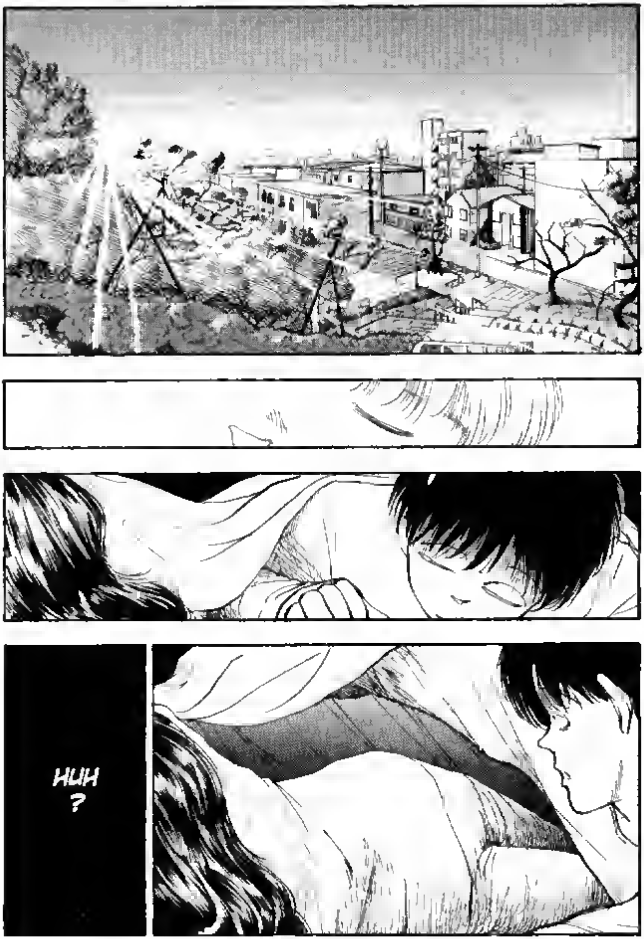
THAT'S PATHETIC, SUEKICHI! SAYING IT WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK!!
AYA ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU!?
SHE ISH NOT MY GIRLFR'N OR ANYTHIN' LIKE THAT! I MEAN IT!!!

JUSHT 'CUZ I C'N ONLY SHAY THISH WHEN I'M PLASHTERED, DOESN' MEAN IT ISHN'T TRUE!
I'VE BEEN WANTIN' TO SHAY THISH TYOU FOR A LOOOOONG TIME I NEED TO SHAY THISH TO YOU!
YOU'RE ACTING A BIT STRANGELY, SUEKICHI ..

I'M NOT SHTRANGE !!
THIS IS TRUE WUV!
OF COURSE


HE FELL ASLEEP !
THUNK
SCHNOOR

SCHNOOR

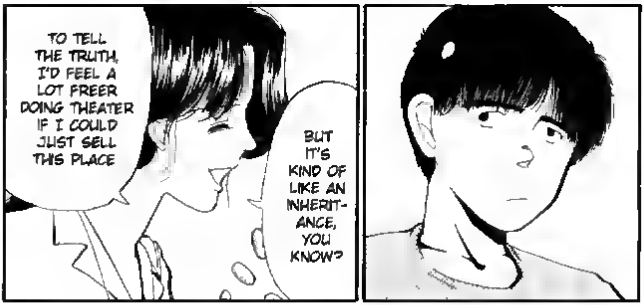

HUH
?

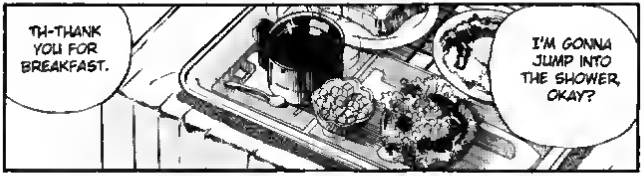
OH..
AYA'S HERE
AGAIN...
GOOD MORNING, SUEKICHI.
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE MISTAKING ME FOR?

W-W-W-W
W-W-W-W
W-W-W-W
W-W-W-W
WHERE...
MY ROOM.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
DON' WANNA! DON' WANNA! I'M GOIN' TO MS. SHIMOMURA'S PLACE!!
GIMME A BREAK...
DON' WANNA! DON' WANNA! I'M GOIN' TO SLEEP IN THE SAME BED AS MS. SHIMOMURA!!
NOW, NOW, SUEKICHI, THAT'S ENOUGH.
THUMP THUMP THUMP
FLUMP!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER A THING?
I AM SO SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!
I WAS DRUNK! IT WAS THE LIQUOR TALKING! I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THOSE THINGS!!
I AM SUCH A JERK, I AM--

RELAX. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, SUEKICHI. YOU WERE JUST REALLY TIRED YESTERDAY. YOU PROBABLY WEREN'T IN THE BEST CONDITION TO DRINK
ANYWAY, YOU MUST BE STARVING...

THIS IS SUCH A N-N-NICE APART-MENT
MY PARENTS BOUGHT IT FOR ME
THEY SAID IT WAS KIND OF LIKE A BRIDAL DOWRY OR SOMETHING..
FLIP!


TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'D FEEL A LOT FREER DOING THEATER IF I COULD JUST SELL THIS PLACE
BUT IT'S KIND OF LIKE AN INHERIT-ANCE, YOU KNOW?


TH-THANK YOU FOR BREAKFAST.
I'M GONNA JUMP INTO THE SHOWER, OKAY?

SSHHH
DOES SHE EXPECT ME TO ...?
NAAAAH, NO WAY

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A SHOWER, TOO, SUEKICHI. IT'S SO REFRESHING!

SHOWER

SHE BRINGS ME TO HER PLACE...
THEN SHE TAKES A SHOWER...
NOW SHE INVITES ME TO TAKE A SHOWER
AND WE'RE BOTH GROWN-UPS...
FUHEHEH

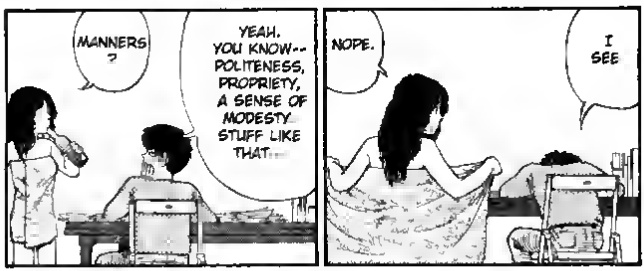
MAYBE AFTER I GET OUT OF THE SHOWER I'LL FIND HER NODDING OFF ON THE SOFA...
YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
I'M JUST SO TIRED AFTER ALL THOSE PERFORMANCES...
SUE-KICHI, I...

YOU'RE THE FIRST MAN I'VE EVER ALLOWED IN MY ROOM...
YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE SHOWER, RIGHT?
MS. SHIMOMURA

MS SHIMO-MURA
PLEASE-- CALL ME MASAMI
HUH?
THAT WAS QUICK!
UM
I'VE GOT TO GET TO WORK, BUT YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE. JUST MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, OKAY? YOU CAN RETURN THE KEY ANYTIME.

LIM..
YES ?
I ..
NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING
YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE AGAIN ALCOHOL NOT COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM YET?
WELL, I'M OFF! BYE-BYE!
CHAK!
HAVE FUN BYE
FUMP!
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP
.....
GUESS I BETTER GO...

GLUG! GLUG!
BOY, YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT A COLD BEER AFTER A HOT SHOWER!
MY LAST BEER!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MANNERS? CRAWLING INTO A MAN'S APARTMENT UNINVITED..
USING HIS BATHTUB, CHUGGING DOWN HIS BEER...



TO BE CONTINUED...